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Yugoslavia

The Federal Presidency issued a statement accusing Croatian forces of "crimes" in Serb-populated areas of Croatia that "qualify as genocide by international standards," TANJUG reports. According to the statement, the "criminal acts" were carried out with the intention of "creating an ethnically pure territory." TANJUG adds that the Presidency has charged federal bodies with the task of collecting evidence of these war crimes and "informing international forums, and the domestic and international public of the facts and results...."

Bosnia-Hercegovina—The republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a statement affirming that reservists in the republic "are not duty-bound to heed illegal call-up papers" at the request of military authorities, according to TANJUG. The ministry announced "disciplinary and other measures" against republic officials who undertake to assist with the military mobilization "without proper authority."

The Banja Luka Corps Command issued a statement on 18 January, TANJUG reports, "demanding" that Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic "reformulate" the question to be asked at a "referendum on the future of Bosnia-Hercegovina". The statement claims that the referendum question "as formulated... implies a positive answer which prejudges" its outcome.

Macedonia—Sarajevo Radio reports on a session of the Macedonian Assembly at which a proposal was "unanimously adopted" to withdraw the republic's representatives from the SFRY Assembly and from the missions of the former common state. Assembly deputies reportedly expressed the view that further work in "whatever is left of the federation" is "senseless" because the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia have rendered Yugoslavia "nonexistent."

Montenegro—The Montenegrin Assembly voted to hold a spring referendum on whether the republic will remain within a common Yugoslav state, TANJUG reports. Precise wording of the referendum question is still being debated. According to Sarajevo Radio, debate on the referendum "inflamed partisan passions" and "none of the opposition parties" support the views of the ruling party on this issue.

Poland

Yuriy Kashlev, ambassador of the Russian Federation in Poland, confirmed that 15 November is the fixed date for the withdrawal of the Northern Group's combat units from Poland, PAP states. "So far things have been going on according to the timetable," he said. According to the ambassador, over 10,000 soldiers were withdrawn in 1991, which points out that Polish media tend to "diminish" this figure.

Czechoslovakia

CSTK reports that the Federal Assembly rejected President Havel's draft bill on the procedure to adopt a new constitution, and a draft amendment to the constitutional law on a referendum. In his draft on the procedure for adopting a new constitution, Havel suggests that the constitution be adopted only after it is approved by the Czech and Slovak national councils. "This unusual procedure corresponds to the unusual situation of Czechoslovakia," Havel said.

Albania

The government has officially declared its recognition of the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia. In a statement released on 20 January and reported by Tirana radio, the government called on Slovenia and Croatia to recognize "the independent and sovereign Republic of Kosovo" where approximately 3 million ethnic Albanians reside.

Bulgaria

Diplomatic relations have been officially established with Armenia, marking Bulgaria as the first East European country to open an embassy in Armenia, Sofia radio reports. During his two-day visit, Armenian Foreign Minister Ovhannisian met with President Zhelev, Prime Minister Dimitrov and Foreign Minister Ganev. According to Sofia radio, Foreign Minister Ganev described the event as both "historic" and "a new political reality."

EC, JNA, Croatian Guard Hold Talks in Pecs

May Review EC Helicopter Downing

LD2101122392 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Csaba Belenessy report on second meeting between the Croatian Guard, the Yugoslav People's Army, and EC observers with the support of the Hungarian Government, to discuss the post-cease-fire situation, in Pecs on 21 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] Nothing came out of the press briefing at 0800. The photographers and cameramen were allowed into the hotel for a few minutes, but it was only from the other side of the street that the writers viewed the usual scene of policemen, commandos, and Alsatians playing with a rubber ball. The food taster who was leaving said that the smorgasbord was excellent, and that the talks began at 0900.

The participants are General Andrija Raseta on behalf of the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA], General Imre Agotic on behalf of the Croatian Armed Forces, and Joao Salgueiro, the Portuguese diplomat holding ambassador's rank, who heads the EC delegation.

Sources here indicate only one topic: cease-fire matters. However, according to unofficial information from the EC mission in Zagreb, there might be discussion of the observers' helicopter that was shot down recently, the flight control system, and the venue for the next meeting.

The discussion is expected to end in the early afternoon, but it is not known precisely when. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire Talks Break Down

LD2101212192 Budapest MTI in English 2006 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 21 (MTI)—The second round of the trilateral negotiations in Pecs, held with the participation of observers from the European Communities, ended when the representatives of the Yugoslav People's Army and the Croatian National Guard did not agree in the matter of the withdrawal of the Yugoslav People's Army troops that control Croatian areas.

Although the Yugoslav People's Army delegation led by General Andrija Raseta, and the Croatian delegation led by General Imra Agotic, agreed that the cease-fire should be upheld and extended, that multi-level relations should be expanded and that armed incidents be halted, their positions basically differed with regard to the conditions of withdrawing the federal troops.

The Croatian side held it of utmost importance to withdraw the people's army troops, while its negotiating partner considered intensification of the cease-fire to be the priority. In view of this, no agreement has been reached so far on continuing the series of talks which began in the southern Hungarian city of Pecs.

Joao da Silva, spokesman of the EC mission in Yugoslavia, briefed the press on the more than seven hours-long second round of the Pecs talks. He said the European Communities and the UN offered, both separately and together, help in taking steps to uphold the cease-fire, and enriching relations between the two sides.

A minor sensation of the press briefing was that Andrija Raseta and Imra Agotic attended the briefing together, for the first time.

General Raseta said a precondition for continuing the talks is for a higher-leve political decision to be reached regarding the withdrawal of the people's army troops from the Croatian areas where no UN troops will be deployed. He also stressed the Yugoslav People's Army is ready to continue the trilateral talks.

General Agotic said he sees no need for another high-level political decision, as the inviolability of Croatia's border has been reconfirmed by several international forums, including the UN Security Council and the Yugoslavia conference chaired by Lord Carrington. He did not, however, turn a dear ear to the Yugoslav People's Army requesting the Yugoslavia conference to pass the political decision it encourages.

EC Talks With Bulgaria Considered 'Positive'

AU1701230492 Sofia BTA in English 1812 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Paul Montgomery report: "Statement of Mr. Frans Andriessen"]

[Text] Brussels, January 17 (BTA)—Frans Andriessen, the member of the European Commission charged with negotiating an association agreement between Bulgaria and the European Community, said the exploratory phase of the talks had proceeded "very well."

"The outcome is very positive," Andriessen told the Bulgarian News Agency after the initial talks. The commissioner said he was hopeful that a proposed agreement could be drafted without any further formal exploratory talks, but stressed that "We haven't taken a formal decision on that yet."

If the European Council follows past procedure, Andriessen went on, the commission should be ready to present a proposal for the agreement by the end of February, and should have a decision to go ahead by the end of April. Then formal negotiations with Bulgarian officials could begin, he said. The agreement could be "near completion" by the end of 1992, Andriessen told BTA. The EC's negotiations with Romania, which began at the same time, "might take a bit longer," he said.

Andriessen said there were expected to be some negotiating problems with Bulgaria about market access of Bulgarian products into what is planned as a free trade system within 10 years. Wine is certainly in the group of "problem" products.

The European commissioner also told BTA that the outcome of Sunday's election would be watched by the community. "The result of the elections can have an effect on negotiating capabilities," he said.

Croatian, Slovene Independence Recognized

AU2101201292 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Albania in Tirana on 20 January]

[Text] Respecting the rights of peoples to self-determination and on the basis of the principles embodied in the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a new Europe, and other documents of the CSCE and in pursuit of its policies of good neighborliness, the Albanian Government declares that it recognizes the independence of the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia. Steps will be taken to establish diplomatic relations with these republics on the basis of bilateral agreements.

The Albanian Government and people hail this decisive event in the histories of the Slovene and Croatian peoples and consider it to be an important step in solving the Yugoslav crisis. Albania is convinced that the creation of the independent states of Slovenia and Croatia will be a contribution to the preservation of peace and stability in the Balkan region.

The Albanian Government wishes to draw the attention of the international community to the fate of 3 million Albanians, the third-largest population in former Yugoslavia after the Serbs and Croats. It calls on the newly recognized republics of Slovenia and Croatia and all states worldwide to recognize in the course of this process the independent and sovereign Republic of Kosovo, proclaimed by its legitimate Assembly through the Declaration of Independence.

The Kosovo Government has affirmed its will to accept and observe the commitments and duties laid down by the European Community as conditions for the official recognition of Yugoslav republics that wish to be recognized, as defined in the statement on Yugoslavia adopted at the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the EEC held in Brussels on 16 December 1991.

Alia Urges Fast Approval of Electoral Law

AU2101185192 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1700 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Sokol Perihati report]

[Text] In order to discuss the preparations for the upcoming elections, President Ramiz Alia met in his office this afternoon Dr. Kastriot Islami, Dr. Aleksander Meksi, and Lush Perpali, chairman and deputy chairmen of the People's Assembly Presidency; Namik Dokle and Arben Imami, chairmen of the Socialist Party and Democratic Party parliamentary groups, and Prime Minister Vilson Ahmeti.

The president expressed his concern at the evident delays in approving the Electoral Law, on which many other decisions and measures depend, such as the appointment of the Central Electoral Commission which, according to the draft of the Electoral Law, must be announced by the president on the proposal of the political parties no later than 35 days before the elections. Also according to the draft of the Electoral Law, the president must, at the proposal of the Council of Ministers, announce the constituencies no later than 35 days before the date appointed for the election, etc.

If these deadlines are to be met, the president said, we must announce both the Central Electoral Commission and the constituencies by 25 January. At the same time, a special decree must officially announce 1 March 1992 as the election day. This means that the existing People's Assembly must also be dissolved by 28 January.

There are two possibilities under these circumstances: Either to approve the Electoral Law in the two or three days remaining before 25 January, while the political parties make proposals for the membership of the Central Electoral Commissions and the Council of Ministers proposes the constituencies, or to change in the bill the deadlines for the announcement of the election day, the Central Electoral Commission, and the constituencies, thus also postponing the dissolution of the People's Assembly and reducing the time available for the electoral campaign.

The president asked those attending the meeting to provide a firm answer to these questions by 25 January, stressing at the same time that the government and local authorities must speed up their technical and organizational measures to register voters, appoint local electoral commissions, and arrange polling stations, ballot boxes, ballot papers, etc.

Dr. Kastriot Islami stressed at the meeting that the People's Assembly will speed up its work to approve the Electoral Law, while the government should take measures to enforce this law as well as possible, to provide material support, to inform the electorate, to arrange the arrival of foreign delegations, etc. He said that we have sent the draft of the Electoral Law to the CSCE Commission for Free and Fair Elections in Warsaw, and are waiting for this body's criticisms and comments.

Deputy Arben Imami said that we insist on the elections being held on 1 March 1992. Namik Dokle said that we are waiting for a reply from Warsaw. If necessary, let us conduct a shorter electoral campaign of 25 or 30 days. Prime Minister Vilson Ahmeti pointed out that the draft of the Electoral Law was submitted today to the government, which also today created a working group to define the constituencies and is continuing preparations to carry out its other duties.

Land Distribution Progress Reported

AU2101160392 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] A report by the Agriculture Ministry spokesman states that the distribution of land under the Land Law has now been 63 percent completed. A total of 332,000

hectares have been distributed to individual peasants. More than 80 percent of the land has been distributed in some districts such as Elbasan, Permet, Berat, Pogradec, Lushnje, Gramsh, etc. In the northeast, Mirdite has divided 74 percent and Puke 65 percent of the land to be distributed to peasants. There are differences among larger districts: for instance, Fier has distributed 70 percent, and Korce 50 percent. Tirana, Vlore, Tepelene and other districts have proceeded at a relatively good pace. The districts of Shkoder, Diber, Kruje, and Tropoje continue to report low percentages of land distribution.

It has now become more than clear that the overwhelming majority of the peasantry have accepted the Land Law approved by the People's Assembly and wish to obtain land as soon as possible in order to place it under cultivation, thus resuming work. The Agriculture Ministry is making every effort to provide comprehensive support through the creation and reinforcement of the necessary infrastructure. Thus, the material and technical supply depots have been turned into agrotechnical enterprises with the right to be privatized. The tractor stations have become agricultural machinery enterprises, which peasants may contract to complete mechanical tasks. The seed enterprises provide peasants with selected seeds and saplings.

Ahmeti Discusses Food Distribution

AU1901204492 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Statement issued by the Council of Ministers' Press and Information Directorate in Tirana on 19 January]

[Text] Vilson Ahmeti, chairman of the Council of Ministers, today met ministers and the officials of ministries, enterprises, and organizations working on the distribution and administration of food aid to our country. Deputy Premier Abdyl Xhaja; the ministers Ylli Cabiri, Gjergj Kondo, Robert Gjini, and Ylli Memisha; representatives of the Public Order Ministry and the Defense Ministry, and others attended.

The meeting heard a report on the rate so far of the delivery and distribution of aid, especially the aid granted by the Italian Government. The report showed that the delivery of foodstuffs has intensified during January and that virtually the entire contracted quantities of some items such as wheat, sugar, butter, and soap have arrived. It is meanwhile expected that the totai quantities of rice, oil, meat, beans, flour, and eggs will be made up during January. Besides the Italian aid, substantial quantities of wheat, butter, and powdered milk have arrived from the United States.

It was pointed out at the meeting that there are large quantities of goods in the port of Durres that are not being distributed to the districts because the work of the truck fleets and the railroad has declined at a time when further quantities of goods are expected to arrive at the port.

Those attending the meeting pointed out that, after the creation of certain reserves during December, the local authorities in the districts must show the proper interest in sending their vehicles to obtain the goods and distributing them. There was particular discussion about the public order situation in the port of Durres and ways to maintain it, about guaranteeing the security of the convoys of vehicles transporting food, and avoiding abuses and thefts.

After the reports and an exchange of views, Prime Minister Vilson Ahmeti drew attention to certain main issues. He emphasized the need to exploit the full capacity of the truck fleets and the railroad, in order to remove goods from the port and distribute them to the districts as soon as possible. The executive committees, he said, must consider food distribution to be their primary duty. The prime minister appointed special delegates to oversee the work of these bodies, dismissing from their posts those who are not doing their jobs. It is necessary to work as hard as possible on this vital problem.

The prime minister then instructed the necessary measures to be taken to maintain order and to provide security for the transportation of goods. Those who have stolen and looted goods must be punished under the law. It must be clear to the forces of order that aid will continue to arrive in the course of this year. Thus, their work is not a campaign, but an ongoing task that can only be accomplished with full and firm organization. In particular, the work of the state authorities is extremely important. The government will soon organize special working meetings with the chairmen of district executive committees in order to improve the role and effectiveness of local bodies in distributing and administering food aid.

Armenian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

AU1801202292 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] The Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Armenia have established diplomatic relations. Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev and Armenian Foreign Minister Rafi Ovannisian, who arrived in Sofia this morning on an official visit, signed the relevant protocol in Sofia this afternoon.

The two ministers also signed a protocol on consultations held between the Bulgarian and Armenian Foreign Ministries.

Meets Zhelev, Dimitrov

AU1801203892 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] In Sofia today Armenian Foreign Minister Rafi Ovhannisian was received in succession by Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and President Zhelyu Zhelev. In his discussion with the prime minister, the importance of Bulgaria's recent recognition of Armenia's independence was stressed, an act that occurred for the first time 70 years ago.

During their meeting, President Zhelev and Ovhannisian discussed topical political and economic matters. Ovhannisian welcomed the bold and principled position adopted by Bulgaria on the Yugoslav problems, which in his view was indicative of Bulgaria's independent and substantive foreign policy. In response to the interest shown on the Bulgarian side in the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, Ovhannisian stated his republic's position on the need to recognize Nagorno- Karabakh, an act corresponding to the results of the referendum held there. Armenia accepts all neighbors that have been granted to it by God, Ovhannisian stated, stressing that his country wants to develop good relations with all countries with which it shares borders.

Ovhannisian also met with Aleksandur Yordanov, chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Policy Commission. During their talks they devoted special attention to developing interparliamentary ties.

Talks Mark 'New Relations'

AU1801204092 Sofia BTA in English 1933 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 18 (BTA)—Bulgaria and Armenia established diplomatic relations today. The protocol was signed here today by the Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mr. Stoyan Ganev and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Mr. Rafi Ovhannisian who arrived on a two-day visit to Sofia this morning.

The two chief diplomats said that their meeting sets the beginning of new relations between Bulgaria and Armenia. They agreed on the opening of embassies in Sofia and Yerevan as soon as possible. According to the Armenian foreign minister, Bulgaria will be the first East European country in which Armenia would open an embassy. He recalled that in 1918 Bulgaria was among the few countries to recognize Armenia's independence and to establish diplomatic relations with it. The Bulgarian foreign minister described as "historic" and "a new political reality" the fact that now Armenia and Bulgaria communicate in Bulgarian and Armenian rather than in Bulgarian and Russian. He said that an agreement had been reached on a speedy drafting of a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries and on a renewal of the legal framework for their cooperation.

Mr. Ganev and Mr. Ovhannisian considered the opportunities for a promotion of bilateral relations. They discussed specific areas like tourism, air transport and culture. The Armenian foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the rights enjoyed by the Armenian community in Bulgaria (some 20,000 people). "The Bulgarian Government gave them freedom, equal civil rights, an opportunity to preserve and promote their culture. This is not always the case with Armenian communities elsewhere," he pointed out.

The chief Armenian diplomat assessed as a pioneering move the recognition by the Bulgarian Government of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. He pointed out that Bulgaria's approach to the former Yugoslav republics could help settle a problem like the independence of Nagorno Karabakh.

Bulgaria expressed readiness to support Armenia's efforts to join the European and world structures.

Today Mr. Rafi Ovhannisian was received, separately and in this order, by Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and President Zhelyu Zhelev.

At both meetings the sides considered the economic changes in Bulgaria and Armenia and the prospects for bilateral contacts.

Asked by President Zhelev about the problems of Nagorno Karabakh, the Armenian foreign minister set forth his country's position about a recognition of the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, an act that would be consistent with the results of the referendum held there.

The foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Armenia today signed a protocol on consultations between the two countries' Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Greek Military Delegation Concludes Mission

AU2101092892 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 13 Jan 92 pp 1, 4

[BULGARSKA ARMIYA staff report: " 'P' for Professional, and Not Politician"]

[Text] After four days of joint work with his Greek colleague, presenting the signed documents at the joint news conference at the Boyana Residence, Colonel General Lyuben Petkov, chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army, stated:

Colonel General Ioannis Verivakis, chief of the General Staff of the Greek Armed Forces, and I did not discuss a single political issue. Our talks were on a purely professional basis.

In such a way, exactly one day before the presidential elections in the country the Bulgarian and Greek military once again proved that they are not influenced by any specific political situation and their only aim is to strengthen a mutual trust that will lead to the stabilization of the whole situation in the Balkans.

This conclusion is substantiated by the published joint communique as well as by the two documents signed by the chiefs of general staff. "The plan for cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Greece, and between the Bulgarian Army and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Greece for 1992," envisages that cooperation be not only at a high level but that close contacts also be established between combat units. When a representative of the Editor's Office asked Colonel General Petrov whether he believes that such a large plan can be implemented, the general smiled faintly:

You heard at the news conference that 90 percent of the 1991 plan was implemented. However, I will let you into a little secret, the 10 percent was one sports competition that was missed due to climatic conditions in Greece. Despite the fact that the 1992 program is much more adventurous, I am sure that it will be accomplished. The professionalism does not come in the implementation but in the preparation of such documents. When all conditions are taken into consideration, a mistake is highly unlikely.

Even more important than the cooperation plan between the armed forces of Bulgaria and Greece for 1992 is the second document signed that carries only the modest title, "Supplement". Its main characteristic is that it lowers the ceiling for all the measures adopted in Vienna during 1990 and can be seen against the background of the recently unstable military political and military situation in the Balkans. A similar step (or stride, as expressed by the chief of our General Staff) between our two countries cannot be defined in any other way than as a true expression of confidence.

Document Strengthens Military Ties

AU2101133092 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 13 Jan 92 p 4

["Supplementary Measures to the Vienna Document (1990) for Strengthening Confidence and Security Between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece" signed in Sofia on 11 January]

[Text] The chief of the General Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the chief of the General Staff of the Republic of Greece, representing the two countries, which are CSCE participants, held meetings in Sofia from 8 to 11 January 1992 and agreed to put into practice the following measures for strengthening confidence and security:

Measure 1

1. The two countries will give each other forewarning of military activities to be conducted within the boundaries of the following zones of application:

—The zone on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria lying between Skrut, Simitli, Velingrad, Asenovgrad, Dimitrovgrad, and the Maritsa River;

—The zone on the territory of the Republic of Greece lying between Dikea, the Maritsa River, the White Sea Coast, Thessalonika, and Rodopolis.

2. Military activities will be subject to notification whenever these activities include:

—at least 9,000 people, or

—at least 250 combat tanks, or

—at least 200 artillery systems of over 100 mm caliber,

—if the troops are organized in divisional structure or at least the equivalent of two brigade structures that are not necessarily under the command of one and the same division.

3. Each of the two countries will invite observers from the other side when the announced military activities are conducted. The aforementioned military activities will be subject to observation when:

—the number of personnel of the troops participating is equal or exceeds 12,000, or

—the number of combat tanks participating is 300 or more, or

—the number of artillery systems participating of 100 mm caliber or above is 250 or more.

4. Each side will give written notification through diplomatic channels to the other side as soon as possible and no later than 42 days before the commencement of military activities subject to notification in the zone of application specified above, using the format for contents (laid down in Paragraph 40 of the 1990 Vienna Document).

5. The length and other conditions connected with observation will be implemented in accordance with the conditions stated in Paragraph 51 of the 1990 Vienna Document.

Measure 2

Regardless of what is stated in Measure 1, in the implementation of the measures for strengthening confidence and security in the region of the Bulgarian-Greek border, the two sides will give each other notice in line with Measure 1, Point 4 of any military activities at battalion level or higher conducted within 15 kilometers distance of the two countries' border.

Measure 3

In addition to those specified in the Vienna Document (1990), on the territory of the other country in the zone of application as specified in Measure 1, each country has the right to conduct the following:

—one additional inspection and two additional assessment visits on the territory of the other country;

—the two countries will refrain from conducting these additional inspections and assessment visits when inspections and/or assessment visits are being conducted by third countries on their territories.

Measure 4

Each country has set up a contact point (liaison) that ensures the transmission and receipt of information relating to the measures stated above.

The contact points (liaison) for the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece are situated in the buildings of the general staffs of the two countries.

The two countries agreed to the following:

The above-stated measures for strengthening confidence can be improved, if this becomes necessary during the process of application.

The measures adopted in this document come into force on 1 March 1992.

This present text was drawn up in Sofia on 11 January 1992 in two identical copies, each one in Bulgarian and Greek and both texts have the same force.

Envoy Denies Secret Talks Held

AU2101213092 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Today the Bulgarian ambassador to Greece, Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, told the BTA correspondent in Athens that he denies the report in the London FINANCIAL TIMES that talks were held yesterday between Bulgaria and Greece.

Bogdanov said that yesterday he visited the Greek Prime Minister's Office and held unofficial talks with advisers, during which they discussed the future of the good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

Bogdanov said that there was no question of any secret talks being held and that he considered that the information reported in the FINANCIAL TIMES was from sources in Athens who were speculating in their own interest.

Lyubomir (?Trukharov), acting chief of the Balkan Countries Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told a BTA reporter in connection with the report in the London newspaper, that he had no knowledge of any such talks.

Trade Discussed With Visiting Iranian Delegates

AU2001151292 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Today at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, representatives from the Bulgarian business circles met with the six member Iranian delegation visiting the country, headed by Mr. Abdol Rahim Govahi, deputy minister of heavy industry of Iran. From our country Deputy Minister Spas Spasov and company managers participated in the talks, also attended by the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Amir-Khalili.

The talks encompassed the fulfilment of agreements up until now in connection with preparations for the Eighth Session of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation.

Possibilities for widening cooperation on the basis of the 1 June 1991 agreement were discussed, as well as effecting payments between the two countries in freely convertible currency. A large part of the talks were focused on prospects in the fields of electric cars and hoists' production, metal cutting machines and the supply of Bulgarian ferrous and nonferrous metal.

Interest was expressed by both sides for Bulgaria to receive Iranian oil on credit in exchange for supplying goods. It was decided to continue the talks in Iran and sign the respective documents.

Official Presidential Election Results Declared

AU2101203292 Sofia BTA in English 2004 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 21 (BTA)—Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev and Mrs. Blaga Dimitrova were formally declared elected as president and vice president of Bulgaria, respectively, by the Central Electoral Commission this evening.

The president and the vice president elect have to be sworn in within seven days of the declaration of the election results and will take office on the day of the swearing in.

Of a total of 6,857,942 qualified voters according to the electoral registers, 5,206,226, or 75.92 per cent, cast their ballot in the second round. Dr. Zhelev and Mrs. Dimitrova, who were nominated by the Union of Democratic Forces, collected 2,738,420 votes (52.85 per cent of the valid votes), and the independent candidates Mr. Velko Vulkanov and Mr. Rumen Vodenicharov, backed by the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], polled 2,443,434 votes (47.15 per cent of the valid votes).

The Zhelev/Dimitrova victory in the run-off election on January 19 was announced unofficially several hours after the end of the poll on the basis of several vote tabulations which were close to the official returns.

DPS Declaration Supports Zhelev

AU2001113792 Sofia PRAVA I SVOBODI in Bulgarian 10 Jan 92 p 1

["Declaration of the Central Council of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms"; place and date not given]

[Text] The 4th of January 1992 marks two years since the foundation of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS]. The political necessity for the appearance of the DPS was prompted by the decade-long policy of ethnic and cultural genocide and state terrorism against minority groups in Bulgaria and the blatant violation by the communist regime of human and the communities' rights. The consolidation of the DPS as a socio-political organization with a broad social base was dictated by the circumstance that the democratic processes begun on 10 November 1989 set the unconditional resolution of the problem of human and communities' rights as a priority.

For two years the DPS has made itself felt as an authoritativc and constructive socio-political force that has participated most actively in the destruction of totalitarian structures at all levels: legislative, executive, and judicial powers with an important contribution to guaranteeing social peace and the peaceful transition to a free civil society.

With its 23 deputies in the Grand National Assembly, the DPS contributed to the resolution of a number of problems connected with changes in the political and economic systems in the country. Despite this the DPS did not sign the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria prepared and adopted by the Grand National Assembly, which in essence is pro-communist and whose 10 articles do not fully conform with international standards and human rights' agreements.

In the results of the parliamentary and local elections conducted in October, the DPS once again consolidated itself as a third political force with the election of 24 members to parliament, 1,144 municipal counselors, and 27 municipal and 653 village mayors.

With its participation in the legislative and executive power the DPS accepts its responsibility in the country's complex political life. Taking this into consideration, the DPS deems it appropriate at this stage of the country's political life not to participate in the forming of the government.

Regardless of its centrist program and role in political life, the DPS in essence accepts the bi-polar structure of parliament as a prerequisite for the country's accelerated democratization.

The common aims of establishing a civilized civil society in a natural way led to the fruitful political partnership and cooperation between the Union of Democratic Forces and the DPS on all levels.

As a consequence of this and assessing Dr. Zhelev as a personality symbolizing the democratic processes in Bulgaria, it is natural that the DPS supports his candidacy for president in the upcoming presidential elections on 12 January 1992.

The DPS now and in the future will continue to be a necessary, constructive political force that will be one of the fundamental guarantors of the irreversibility of the democratic processes in the Republic of Bulgaria.

BSP Accepts Election Results

AU2001194592 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] held an extraordinary news conference today at which the Socialists announced their preliminary view on the results of the two presidential elections run-off.

The party accepts the results of the second run-off as a step forward in the consolidation of the democratic process in Bulgaria.

The results show a trend toward a new alternative in our country's political life, the speakers at the news conference pointed out.

According to the BSP leaders, the party has achieved its election goals.

Democratic Center Supports Results

AU2001200492 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The Bulgarian Democratic Center is convinced that the presidential election results express the people's will. This was stated at a news conference in Sofia today. [passage omitted]

According to Stefan Gaytandzhiev, who spoke at the news conference, the television debate last Friday [17 January] may have been evaluated as victory for Velko Vulkanov by the average viewer, regardless of the methods he used.

It was announced at the news conference that the Bulgarian Democratic Center supports the actions of the government regarding the recognition of Macedonia, but is concerned about the evident lack of diplomatic coordination with the parties involved, and in the first place with the Republic of Macedonia itself and with the EC members.

The Bulgarian Democratic Center urgently requests a national conference with the participation of all political forces at which it intends to submit its own concept on foreign policy issues and on decisions of historical importance.

Zhelev Opposes Cuts in Officers' Wages

AU2101103092 Sofia PODKREPA in Bulgarian 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Staff report: "President Disagrees With Decreasing Officers Wages"]

[Text] Since the beginning of the year Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received piles of letters from officers who disagree with Decision No. 447 of the Council of Ministers. This is understandable, because the aforementioned decision "cuts" by 250 leva the remuneration they receive upon conferment of a military rank.

In response to those letters, Mr. Valentin Stoyanov, spokesman for the president of the Republic, has been authorized to state that Dr. Zhelev was not informed about the preparation of the decision and its adoption. After he learned about the decision he came to the conclusion that the measure is ill-founded. He will do everything necessary so that the decision can be reviewed.

Official Interviewed on Defense Ministry

AU2101124692 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 14 Jan 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Emil Mingov, deputy minister of defense, by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Sotirov; place and date not given: "The Force of Law Will Replace Unlawfulness of Force"]

[Excerpt] Emil Mingov was born on 17 July 1952 in Gotse Delchev. He graduated from the Law Faculty. In the past he worked as chief assistant of labor law and social security at the St. Kliment Okhridski Sofia University and dealt with issues related to improving professional qualifications. He is a candidate of jurisprudence. He is married and has one child. In December 1991 he was appointed deputy minister of defense in charge of the Military-Administrative Unit.

[Sotirov] Mr. Mingov, why was the Military-Administrative Unit created at the Ministry of Defense? What issues will draw its attention?

[Mingov] The Military-Administrative Unit is an integral part of the new structure of the Ministry of Defense. It was established as a part of the democratic changes. It has two administrative bodies—"Legal" and "Social Policy," two departments—"Administrative" and "Military-Judicial," and one section—"Archive of the Ministry of Defense." Thus, the name of the unit is rather provisional, because it is not related to administration of an activity, but is rather aimed at the social position and status of the Ministry of Defense employees.

The Legal Administration prepares two bills of vital importance for the Ministry of Defense—the draft laws on defense and on the Armed Forces. A great deal of work is to be done in order to bring the internal normative structures of the Ministry of Defense into accord with the legal acts and decrees. At present there are not only incompatibilities but also overt contradictions between various regulations and ministerial orders of the recent past. In the future the Legal Administration will be in charge of coordinating every order both with the internal normative basis of the Ministry of Defense and generally with the normative basis of the Republic of Bulgaria. A uniform contractual policy will be implemented.

The "Social Policy" Administration also faces great tasks. This includes issues such as wages, pensions, social benefits, housing, jobs for the spouses of military personnel, and children's education. Those are issues that affect all employees of the Ministry of Defense. Man is in the center of those problems. We will concentrate on the needs of the ministry's employees. Those needs will determine the priority of our tasks. For us it is especially important to know what the needs of the people are so that we can help them within the framework of the possibilities of the Ministry of Defense, and satisfy them to the maximum degree. In other words, we will provide social conditions that will enable the military to implement their duties not only because it is a matter of personal responsibility, but in an attempt to improve the prestige of their profession.

The Administrative Department will also have very important functions because the flow of information depends on it. The scientific organization of labor and the use of modern equipment will guarantee speed, efficiency, and the optimum effect of the activities.

The "Archives" Section is the history of the Ministry of Defense, because the documents it stores are daily pictures of the existence and activity of the military department.

Thus, if I could summarize, the Military-Administrative Unit will merge activities that in the final analysis will contribute to the normal functioning of the Ministry of Defense. [passage omitted]

Aleksiev Named Dimitrov Economic Adviser

AU2101202692 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] As of today, Aleks Aleksiev is Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov's adviser on the economy and investment policy. This was announced by the Council of Ministers Press Center.

General Todorov Released, Under House Arrest

AU2101203492 Sofia BTA in English 1951 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 21 (BTA)—The Military Division of the Supreme Court today ordered the release from custody into house arrest of General Vladimir Todorov (Ret.), who faces charges in connection with the destruction of the secret police file of emigre writer Georgi Markov. The Supreme Court thus granted a request filed by the general's defence.

The Supreme Court ruling is unappealable.

Today General Todorov's defence lawyers denied to BTA the press reports of "new crimes" committed by the former Bulgarian intelligence chief which were detected during the proceedings. The general is on trial in connection with the destruction of the file on Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian dissident writer and critic of the Zhivkov regime who died in London in 1978 in still mysterious circumstances which prompted the notorious "Bulgarian umbrella" theory.

"The reports of certain mass media, that the court proceedings against Vladimir Todorov have detected new crimes carrying the severest punishment under the Penal Code, are untrue," the defence team told BTA.

The court trial of General Todorov was suspended a couple of days ago and the case was referred back to the prosecutor for reinvestigation. In doing this, the Military Division of the Supreme Court acted on a submission from the defence filed after General Lilko Yotsov, who appears for the prosecution in the closed-door hearings, called new witnesses "who established new circumstances beyond the subject of the indictment." During the court proceedings the defendant General Todorov contested the circumstances in question. "The new circumstances do lead to a revision of the charges but they are grounds for the invocation of a law treating the same crime or a crime carrying the same punishment as the charge preferred in the indictment," the press release says.

Todorov 'Destroyed' Second Markov File

AU1801204692 Sofia BTA in English 1842 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 18 (BTA)—General Vladimir Todorov, former intelligence chief, destroyed two almost equally large files on emigre writer Georgi Markov. The existence of a second file was disclosed by journalists of "TRUD" and "24 CHASA." It was reported yesterday that the general, who had been under house arrest, was taken in custody, the proceedings against him were suspended and the case was referred for reinvestigation.

"A variety of reasons explain the general's arrest, ranging from the need to prevent him from influencing future witnesses to securing his own safety, experts believe. They blame the investigators for doing less work in a year than the court in three days," writes "24 CHASA."

Without naming their sources, "TRUD" and "24 CHASA" report that it emerged from the questioning of the witnesses that there were two files on Georgi Markov. The second file, hitherto unknown to the court, had been kept in the archives of the external intelligence service. General Todorov asked for the second file and it disappeared without a trace, according to "24 CHASA." According to "TRUD," the witness who disclosed the existence of the second file had been ordered by General Todorov himself to destroy it.

The "TRUD" reporter assumes that the first file disappeared or was destroyed in early 1990. It had been kept in the archives of State Security Department Three (the counterintelligence, which also spied on Bulgarian intellectuals). The idea was to safeguard the informers or, probably, to keep them at bay when given new assignments.

The second file, which disappeared from the intelligence service archives, was either a personnel file on Markov as a full-time or part-time State Security employee, or an operative file on his emigre activities in London.

The "TRUD" reporter does not rule out the possibility of Markov having been kept on "dual record": in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as the possibility of foreign intelligence agencies taking definite interest in him. These suspicions are reinforced by the ongoing silence of Scotland Yard and of the French secret services, the feature says.

Former Prime Minister's Verdict Expected

AU2101202292 Sofia BTA in English 1921 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Sofia, January 21 (BTA)—According to Judge Venelin Slavchev, the trial of Mr. Andrey Lukanov, a top BCP/BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party/Bulgarian Communist Party] functionary and ex-prime minister, will be completed on February 27 when it will become clear if Mr. Lukanov loses his apartment.

The legal proceedings were instituted on June 5, 1991. The municipal council, in the area of which the apartment is situated, claims it was purchased unlawfully, as a permit should be obtained from a higher authority—the Executive Committee of the Sofia City Council, for the purchase of any apartment with floorage exceeding 120 square metres. The floorage of Mr. Lukanov's apartment is 191 sq.m. but there is no permit.

The BTA reporter was shown the sales contract in which it is written that the sales order had been endorsed by the mayor of Sofia.

On November 7, 1991 Sofia's new mayor, Mr. Aleksandur Yanchulev, filed a submission in court upholding the municipal council's claim. On the same date Mr. Andrey Lukanov also filed a counter-claim insisting that the case be dismissed for the lack of legal grounds.

On the following day the ex-premier's counter-claim was sustained in court. Soon it will become known whether he will lose his apartment.

There is another claim on the same apartment—it was filed by Mr. Ivan Orizarski. He is suing the Sofia City Council for having illegally expropriated the apartment. Later on the apartment was sold to Mr. Lukanov.

Legislators Reject Two Havel Draft Bills

LD2101231892 Prague CSTK in English 2227 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 21 (CSTK)—The Czechoslovak parliament today failed to approve Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel's draft bill on the procedure to adopt a new constitution, and a draft amendment to the constitutional law on referendum.

These are two of the five drafts Havel submitted to the parliament in late 1991 in an effort to help the federal and the Czech and Slovak regional parliaments out of their stalemate in the search for a new constitutional arrangement for coexistence of Czechs and Slovaks.

The three other drafts on a new structure of the Federal Assembly, the president's powers and the electoral law will be discussed in the coming days.

Havel hoped his drafts to be discussed by the federal parliament already at its 19th session in December so that they might be applied, if approved, in the next general elections scheduled to take place in June.

In his draft on the procedure for adopting a new federal constitution, which is to replace that of 1969, Havel proposes that the constitution be adopted only after it is approved by the two regional (Czech and Slovak) parliaments as demanded by Slovakia. Justifying the draft at the 19th parliament session, Havel said this unusual procedure corresponds to the unusual situation of Czechoslovakia.

Havel was working out the drafts at a time when talks between the Czech and Slovak parliaments on Czechoslovakia's state setup were deadlocked and there was the danger of Czechoslovakia's disintegration over Slovakia's push for greater sovereignty within the common state.

The talks have been continuing ever since, but without much success.

Surprisingly, Havel's proposal meeting the Slovak demand was turned down by the Slovak part of the House of Nations.

Commenting on this, the chairman of Czechoslovakia's Supreme Court, Otakar Motejl, said: "I was rather afraid that such an attitude would be taken by the Czech side which ascribes a greater role to the federal parliament in adopting the constitution."

The draft amendment to the law on referendum gives the president the right to call a referendum if the parliament is not opposed to it, or if at least 500,000 citizens eligible to vote in the Czech Republic and 250,000 in the Slovak Republic agree with it.

The draft was rejected by deputies for all Slovak parties, with the exception of the Civic Democratic Union-Public Against Violence (ODU-VPN). Deputies representing Czech parties, with the exception of the Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia II (HSD-SMS), voted for the draft.

At the end of last year, Havel said the tense situation in the country should be solved in a referendum in which Czechs and Slovaks would say whether or not they wish to live in a common state.

He gained broad public support for his proposal when more than 2.5 million Czechoslovak citizens signed an appeal to hold a referendum on the future of Czechoslovakia. Also today, the federal parliament approved the European convention on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

CDP Rejects Havel's Draft Electoral Bill

LD1901213592 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1130 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report on news conference with Christian Democratic Party representatives by correspondent Alexander Picha on CSFR President Vaclav Havel's draft electoral bill on 13 January; place not given]

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [CDP] Chairman Vaclav Benda said that attempts by some groups of deputies to make Havel's proposals acceptable by proposing amendments to them would not work. Benda said it is impossible to proceed even from the bill's foundations because the president's proposals combine the disadvantages of the majority and proportional electoral systems and, by proposing to apply two various preferences, it discriminates against voters who have a clear idea about for whom to vote. Moreover, Benda said the Christian Democrats reject the messianistic notion of experimentation by seeking some kind of a third way between electoral systems. The CDP also opposes the president's notion of a federal council and supports the idea of a senate as the second chamber of parliament. Provided the senate operates on similar foundations as the lower chamber, the CDP will not agree with its transfer to Bratislava because it would cause a number of practical problems.

Havel, Carnogursky View Elections, State Treaty

LD2101083892 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Following yesterday's visit to southern Slovakia, President Vaclav Havel spent a working day in Bratislava today. In the morning at Bratislava Castle he received representatives of some political parties and movements. The first were representatives of the Christian Democratic Movement [CDM]. Their conversation lasted an hour and ended a short while ago. The subject was learned later from Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky. This station was represented by Magda Pospisilova and Lydia Mrazova. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Mrazova] What is the outcome of the discussions?

[Carnogursky] As far as the draft bills are concerned, especially the electoral bill, the president sees this as an open issue despite the relatively negative attitude taken

by Federal Assembly committees and the Slovak National Council. We clarified that even different electoral systems for the election to the Federal Assembly and to the Slovak National Council or the Czech National Council do not have to present an unsurmountable obstacle. We are going to discuss this topic at our council meeting tomorrow; therefore, I will not not as yet announce any final stand on the part of the CDM.

[Pospisilova] What can you say about the state treaty?

[Carnogursky] Regarding the state treaty, talks are currently taking place. A Slovak National Council delegation is in Prague today. The meeting could push matters forward. We insist on the treaty being between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. Although the republics would be represented by their respective national councils, it would be a treaty between the republics. In this sense it would be a state treaty, because it would be a treaty between two states.

[Mrazova] How does the president view the dropping of the term state?

[Carnogursky] We did not discuss this a great deal because it is not of major significance. It is only a minor point.

[Pospisilova] What about structural changes in the Federal Assembly?

[Carnogursky] The matter is still open. Deputy Ivan Simko of our party stressed that the CDM and the Civic Movement are the last parties to support to the end the idea of a federal council. In the end we went with the majority view adopted by the other parties, although I believe that this has not yet been finally concluded. All loose ends have not yet been tied up; for instance, the senate should have its seat in Bratislava. We told the president that in the extreme worst case it would not be unacceptable for the existing structures of the Federal Assembly to remain intact.

[Mrazova] What about powers?

[Carnogursky] If the existing structures remain, so will the powers; and if there is a change, powers will also be modified in accordance with proposals that may be modified further by deputies. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Havel Meets Slovak Coalition Representatives

AU2101121692 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Jan 92 p 2

[A. Melicharkova report: "Not an Insurmountable Obstacle"]

[Excerpt] The presidential bills and questions regarding the signing of the treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic were the main topics on the agenda of yesterday's talks between the head of state and the Slovak coalition parties' representatives.

Since the reporters had no access to the meeting, they asked the representatives for information as soon as they emerged from the president's study. The Christian Democratic Movement chairman, Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky, commenting on the talks, said, among other things, that because of the negative attitude of some Federal Assembly and Slovak National Council committees toward the presidential election bill, Vaclav Havel still considers the issue open. According to Carnogursky, separate election systems for the Federal Assembly and the Slovak National Council are not necessarily an insurmountable obstacle but he could not make a definite statement before the weekend session of the Christian Democratic Movement Council. Referring to the treaty between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, he emphasized that the Christian Democratic Movement insists on a treaty between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic—in this sense, it would be a state treaty because it would concern a treaty between states. To NARODNA OBRODA's question what they had promised the president, Carnogursky replied: "In conclusion, we said to each other—May the Lord be with us!"

President Havel also focused on the topics mentioned in the introduction in his discussion with the representatives of the Civic Democratic Union-Public Against Violence Party and the Hungarian Independent Initiative. According to Martin Porubjak, Civic Democratic Union-Public Against Violence Party chairman, they spoke about the possibility of combining the advantages of the deputies' bill with those of the presidential election bill, and derived a combined bill that they find acceptable. They are still going to discuss it in the party. Porubjak emphasized his firm belief that such an election law should be adopted as would encourage people to participate in the elections. He repeated that the Civic Democratic Union-Public Against Violence Party has opposed the reconstruction of the Federal Assembly according to the presidential proposal from the very beginning, i.e., the establishment of a Federal Council as a principle that would not guarantee objectivity. They advocate a proportionally composed senate located in Bratislava. If the presidential bill is not approved by the Federal Assembly, the Hungarian Independent Initiative intends to come up with an initiative in the Federal Assembly that would utilize some of the bill's principles in the second proposal to be approved.

After the meeting with President Havel, Democratic Party Chairman Jan Holcik said that he was informed about the party's initiative aimed at the organization of a meeting of all political parties with the right-of-the-center orientation. The goal is to form a democratic bloc that would formulate its policy for the election period. [passage omitted]

Calfa Comments on 'Problematic Points' of Treaty

LD2101175192 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1850 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Studio interview with Federal Prime Minister Marian Calfa by unidentified correspondents; date not given: "Ten Minutes With The Prime Minister"—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Prime Minister, I welcome you for the first time in our domestic environment here at Kavci Hory and I am glad that you accepted our invitation to come to the studio.

The representatives of both National Councils met yesterday without excessive publicity in order to hold further discussions about the treaty which is now being prepared. The treaty has a number of problematic points. I think that one of the most important is the issue of the international legal subjectivity of the republics. What do you think about this problem?

[Calfa] I am rather sorry that the meeting took place without it being given, as you implied, due publicity, because this was an exceptionally important meeting of the Presidiums of the two National Councils. The future of the new state is in effect being created, and these are precisely matters that should be given publicity, at least as much publicity as is given to other matters. However, what happened has happened, although the information given was in a rather abridged form.

As far as the issue of the international legal subjectivity is concerned, this is an attribute we attach to independent states. When, therefore, the international legal subjectivity of our republics is demanded as well as the international legal subjectivity of the common state, then we are on a collision course which is absolutely insolvable. Either the common state has international legal subjectivity or the common state simply does not exist, and both republics then demand such subjectivity for themselves. This subjectivity in effect characterizes an independent state within a community of states. An independent state which is able to conclude all kinds of treaties can have diplomatic representation and establish relations in other areas, in international legal areas. It therefore becomes a totally equal partner of all these states.

From this point of view it is not possible, in my view, for the Czech Republic to exist as an independent subject of international law or for the Slovak Republic [to exist] as an independent subject side by side with the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. It is either one or both these two that can exist independently. Therefore, in my view, a demand for international legal subjectivity of the two republics means in fact a demand for the absolute independence of these republics and in effect the beginning of the end of the common state.

[Correspondent] This is not in fact only our own problem. How would our foreign partners, for instance the EC, react to it?

[Calfa] I do not, of course, know what their reaction would be because it would depend on the way the separation would occur. If it was in the constitutional way they would have to accept it because it would have been our decision. On the other hand, we cannot influence their decision. This means that the EC would make a decision as they themselves see it. When talks on the Association Agreement were held the EC made it unequivocally clear—and you know that the participation of our republics was discussed—that their contractual partner was the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, and that what happens within the framework of our republic was our own constitutional affair. We are the sole partner.

It is therefore possible that they would act by accepting the separation provided it was constitutional and it is possible that they would consider that they are now having to face two new subjects each of which is different economically, each having new requirements, and that a new contractual relationship would perhaps have to be started from the very beginning. New talks would have to be held about EC's relationship with the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic as the case may be.

In my view, all of this would have a retarding, braking effect and in any case it would put us several years back in our economic development. I am absolutely convinced of this.

[Correspondent] Of course, the fate of Eastern Europe, too, is playing a role. By this I mean states which are gradually disintegrating or which have the tendency to disintegrate. It appears that, for instance, some forces in Slovakia see their model in this development and prerequisites for a possible development.

[Calfa] Well, I have always thought that the separatists were in Slovakia. I no longer believe this because they exist in the Czech lands as well. Of course, they are stronger in Slovakia; they are politically organized and have it in their political programs. I must say that I have the feeling that some political forces, especially in Slovakia, have taken the example for their actions from the Soviet Union, from the manner in which it ended.

Let us imagine the splendor, so to speak, when it is shown that the organs of a common state are no longer working, that they have become historically obsolete, that everything has retreated into history and faded away, and that all power has been taken over by the republics and that they are building new relations among themselves from the foundations. I have a feeling that this idea has rather gained favor but I hope that we shall not see its realization in our country.

[Correspondent] You spoke just now about a nonfunctioning state. The issue of power sharing was also discussed yesterday. You, as the federal government, in fact depend on what powers our common state is going to have in order to insure that it is functioning. The issue of power sharing was also discussed—what form of power sharing do you consider to be best? Are you satisfied with the range of powers outlined in that treaty to be given to the federation?

[Calfa] I recently only unofficially—because nobody sent it to us officially—a proposal for power sharing as outlined in the concept of the Slovak National Council Presidium. I was verbally informed about what roughly are the ideas of the Czech National Council, that is, of the Czech National Council Presidium.

Yesterday they did not agree on this issue. They did not reach an agreement above all because they hold totally different views on the range of powers and also as far as individual powers are concerned on their form.

My view is based on the idea that if we want a common state it makes sense only if it is going to function. There is no point in founding something which will emerge as nonfunctioning or something that would after some time destroy itself because it could not function.

We are coming to realize that, for instance, a division of powers is very wrong as far as the budget and financial sphere is concerned. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Talks between the National Councils have not ended yet, they are going to continue. What course do you envision the talks taking? What course of talks do you expect? The time factor begins to play a role in this now.

[Calfa] [passage omitted] If we insist on agreeing on all small issues at all costs then I am convinced that we are going to fail. Power sharing is an issue on which it is impossible, in my view, to reach agreement because each of the sides starts from a totally different basis.

I have spoken about this several times already. I think that this basis is not a sufficiently strong, sufficiently firm idea of a common state. I am not aware of any Slovak political representative, with the exception of the Civic Democratic Union-Public Against Violence and the platform of the Democratic Party, as well as some national parties, which could very clearly define the idea of a common state. All the big political forces in Slovakia are, in fact, maneuvering, expressing ideas which totally reject a common state or accepting it only under certain conditions, going round and round. The mass media help them in this a lot.

My view is—I have to state this—that the will of the political representatives to have a common state has disappeared. This is, in my view, their historic mistake because in my view they cannot implement this idea of theirs in this election term because they do not have a mandate to do so.

[Correspondent] Do you think that a final solution will be found to this problem by 15 February—the date put forward by the Slovak side—not only because of our citizens' disappointment but also because elections are approaching?

[Calfa] In my view, if our common state is at stake no deadline is right. We can go on discussing it for years and years, as is the case in the world, in order to find the best function, the best model.

One thing is clear, if we want to have elections on the regular date of the elections—and we do intend to have elections on this date—then it is necessary to have at least an idea about the bodies to which candidates are to be elected. This was the idea of the president's proposals. We come across this again. We need the minimal degree of certainty which would continue to exist until the elections—and it is represented by the bodies of our common state to which candidates are going to be elected. [passage omitted]

Czech ODA, Slovak ODU-VPN Form Coalition

LD2101073192 Prague CSTK in English 2121 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 20 (CSTK)—Representatives of the Czech right-wing Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) and the Slovak centre-right Civic Democratic Union-Public Against Violence (ODU-VPN) today agreed to establish a coalition for the June parliamentary elections.

The communique announcing the agreement was signed by ODU-VPN Chairman Martin Porubjak and the chairman of the ODA political leadership, Vladimir Dlouhy.

The ODA is one of the three factions split from the former Civic Forum (OF), the landslide winner in 1990 in the Czech Republic of the first free elections in Czechoslovakia in 45 years.

The Public Against Violence (VPN) movement, sister organisation of the OF in Slovakia, split into the centre-left Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (hzds) and the ODU-VPN in spring 1991.

Both parties are currently represented in the federal as well as regional parliaments.

Civic Movement Confirms Liberal Orientation

LD2001235492 Prague CSTK in English 1708 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 19 (CSTK)—Liberal orientation of the Civic Movement (OH) was confirmed at a two-day conference of the chairmen of its district organisations at Prachatice (South Bohemia) this weekend.

Chief of the OH election campaign Ivan Gabal told journalists at the close of the conference that the movement "in no way agrees with communists but if they are people who believe in this ideology and do not threaten democracy, they have the right to political existence."

He also voiced fear that the forthcoming general elections (in July) could become a direct clash between the rightist and leftist blocs after which Czechoslovakia could lose consensus. "The elections must be a competition between various concepts of transformation, for instance between the liberal and conservative conceptions," Gabal said.

The OH, led by Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, is one of the two factions of the Civic Forum (formed in November 1989 in opposition to the then communist rule) which split last February. The other faction is the right-wing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) led by Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus.

Klaus Speaks on Last Minute Coupon Registration

LD2101085592 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 2000 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Vaclav Klaus, federal deputy prime minister and finance minister, spoke about the lack of coupon books. He reminded that a number have been issued. He stressed that he has drawn attention several times to the danger of leaving registration to the last minute. He said that citizens have exposed themselves to the current difficulties.

Vaclav Klaus added that the large discrepency between the number of those who have been registered and the number of books and stamps issued does not yet require carrying out any hasty measures.

Ministers Agree on Suspension

LD2101172392 Prague CSTK in English 1601 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Brno Jan 18 (CSTK)—Czech and Slovak ministers for the administration and privatisation of national property Tomas Jezek and Ivan Miklos today agreed on an immediate suspension of the registration of privatisation investment coupon booklets by Czechoslovak citizens.

They assume that the suspension (about 10 days) will postpone the deadline for the registration (now set for January 31). Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus "has taken this fact into consideration" and should decide about the issue on Monday, January 20, Jezek said.

The decision is aimed at preventing speculations with coupon booklets whose supplies have run out in many parts of the country although as many as 8 million of them have been issued (100 per cent more than the number of people expected to take part in the privatisation).

In coupon privatisation, thousands of state-owned companies are to be sold off by sale of coupons to individuals over 18 years of age who, after registration, may trade their coupons for company shares. The registration began last November 1.

Jezek and Miklos believe that the missing booklets have been bought up by speculators seeking to re-sell them at a profit, or by investment funds intending to use them to entice people to give their coupons in the funds' charge.

"As soon as I find out that a fund is speculating, I will take its licence away," jezek said.

According to some estimations, there are up to 400 investment funds in Czechoslovakia at present, the most active among them being the "Harvard Capital and Consulting" headed by Viktor Kozeny who claims the fund has no foreign links. Thanks to their extensive advertising campaign, the fund has as yet lured some 200,000 Czechoslovak citizens to give their coupons in its charge.

Stock worth 260,000 million crowns (8,700 million USD) is earmarked for the opening wave of privatisation in the first half of 1992 (140,000 million crowns in the Czech and 70,000 million crowns in the Slovak Republic, the rest in the federation).

It follows from the two ministers' meeting in Brno that if 2 million people register, each person could end up with stock worth some 130,000 crowns (4,300 USD). The number of people registered to date has just exceeded 2 million.

"It is a big sum and that is why we ... decided that it was necessary to prevent concentration of too much power over companies. No fund can get more than a 20-per cent stake in a company," Jezek said.

1991 Industrial Output Drops, Prices Increase

LD2001195592 Prague CSTK in English 1924 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 20 (CSTK)—Czechoslovakia's industrial output in 1991 decreased by 23 per cent against 1990, and the December 1991 industrial output was even 36.3 per cent lower than that of December 1990, says a statistical survey of the Czechoslovak economy in 1991, given to CSTK today.

The survey, carried out by the Federal Statistical Office, takes into acount all enterprises and businesses employing more than 100 workers.

The biggest drop in production was scored by the clothing industry (40.4 per cent), metallurgy of nonferrous metals (41.6 per cent), electrical engineering (39.2 per cent), the textile industry (35.6 per cent), and the leather industry (36.5 per cent).

The productivity of labour descreased by 14.1 per cent against 1990 in both the Czech and Slovak republics as well as in Czechoslovakia as a whole.

The average number of workers in industrial enterprises fell down by 12.3 per cent (12 per cent in the Czech Republic, 13.2 per cent in Slovakia).

The total retail-trade turnover reached 368,600 million crowns (12,287 million USD), a decline of 3.3 per cent against 1990. However, the amount of purchased goods shrank by almost 40 per cent.

The prices of goods ceased to be regulated by the state as of January 1, 1991, which resulted in their rises.

In December 1991, consumer prices in Czechoslovakia were up 53.6 per cent on average against December 1990 (52 per cent in the Czech Republic, 58.3 per cent in Slovakia). The prices of food went up by 36 per cent, prices of other goods grew by 67.7 per cent, and the prices of services rose by 52.2 per cent against December 1990.

The 1991 inflation rate was nearly 58 per cent in comparison with 1990 (56.6 per cent in the Czech Republic, 61.2 per cent in Slovakia).

There were 523,700 unemployed in Czechoslovakia on December 31, 1991, which is 6.6 per cent of the able-to-work population (221,700 or 4.1 per cent in the Czech Republic, 302,000 or 11.8 per cent in Slovakia)

On the other hand, 56,600 jobs were available in Czechoslovakia at the end of 1991, 8,200 of them in Slovakia.

411,700 persons were on the dole at the end of 1991, 247,700 of this number in Slovakia.

Dienstbier Defends Tanks Delivery to Syria

LD2001233992 Prague CSTK in English 1837 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CSTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier today told CSTK the latest delivery of Czechoslovak T-72 tanks to Syria was the last one and no further deliveries would follow.

Dienstbier was reacting to today's protest by the Israeli Foreign Ministry against Czechoslovakia's resumption of deliveries of T-72 tanks to Syria. The protest note was handed to the Czechoslovak ambassador to Israel, Milos Pojar.

Dienstbier pointed out that Czechoslovakia has not resumed arms exports and continues to be opposed to them. Today's Israeli protest is unlikely to have an impact on Israeli-Czechoslovak relations, he added.

Czechoslovak tank deliveries, taking place under a Czechoslovak-Syrian contract, were temporarily suspended last October before an official visit to Czechoslovakia by Israeli President Hayim Herzog and the start of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Stefan Glezgo, director of the Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Ministry department controlling arms trade, told CSTK today that the contract on the delivery of 250 tanks to Syria was concluded at the beginning of last year.

Glezgo said that if Czechoslovakia would not deliver military material to Syria, someone else might do so. "The main reason for the contract was obtaining financial means to cover the conversion of (Czechoslovakia's) arms industry", Glezgo said. He added that Czechoslovak arms enterprises have been waiting for major aid from western countries in vain.

Glezgo also said that within the contract Syria will buy several thousand Czechoslovak tractors.

Asked why the tanks are being sent to Syria via the Polish port of Szczecin, Glezgo said this way substitutes railway transport through Yugoslavia, cut off after the outbreak of fighting in that country.

Protocol on Oil Deliveries Signed With Russia

AU2101120792 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 17 Jan 92 p 1

[CSTK report: "Not Only Crude Oil"]

[Text] Moscow—The deputy foreign ministers of the CSFR and the Russian Federation signed a protocol on trade and economic relations for this year in Moscow yesterday. The protocol should secure, among other things, deliveries of 7.5 million tonnes of crude oil to Czechoslovakia. It contains lists of the most important goods to be delivered by each side to the other this year. This protocol establishes a new and exact mechanism of trade relations.

In the protocol, the Russian Federation guarantees the delivery of 7.6 million tonnes of crude oil to Czechoslovakia. According to Deputy Minister Lubomir Martak, this is the maximum we were able to receive given the current decline in crude oil extraction in Russia. Last year, the CSFR received 9.5 million tonnes of this raw material from the Soviet Union.

According to L. Martak, this year there are exceptionally advantageous conditions for acquiring additional deliveries. Crude oil producers in Russia will be allowed to sell 20 percent of extracted crude oil for their own profit. Half the profit will go to them and the other half will be used for the needs of the region. According to the protocol, the Russian Federation should secure deliveries of 13 billion cubic meters of gas to Czechoslovakia.

Spokesman Remarks on German Treaty, Russian Ties

LD2001164892 Prague CSTK in English 1350 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Prague Jan 20 (CSTK)—Czechoslovak presidential spokesman Michael Zantovsky today confirmed there have been no contacts recently between President Vaclav Havel and his German counterpart Richard von Weizsaecker regarding the Czechoslovak-German friendship treaty. The treaty was initialled by the two countries' foreign ministers in Prague October 7. Czechoslovakia expects it to be signed without any amendments by mid-February. Meeting with journalists, Zantovsky said the establishment of highest-level contacts between Czechoslovakia, Ukraine and Russia is not yet under discussion. Nor are preparations being made for a summit of the Central European "troika" (Hungary, Poland and CSFR), he noted. In the future Havel is planning a short unofficial foreign trip and a state visit, Zantovsky said, giving no further details. He told reporters Havel has decided to allocate 2 million crowns (66,667 USd) from his 1990 and 1991 incomes for humanitarian, cultural and social purposes.

Legislators Welcome 'Detente' With Serbia

LD2101213192 Budapest MTI in English 2013 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 21 (MTI)—A conciliatory statement by the vice-president of the Serbian Socialist Party was received by leaders of Hungarian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee with profound satisfaction and was seen as a promising development for the future of Hungarian-Serbian relations.

In the statement, made public on Tuesday, Academician Mihailo Markovic told MTI's correspondent in Belgrade that with the slowing of the war there is a possibility for fruitful cooperation between Hungary and Serbia.

Gyula Horn (Hungarian Socialist Party), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, welcomed that a prominent personality of the Serbian governing party had undertaken to ease the tension between the two countries and had stepped beyond the mutual accusations that characterised Hungarian-Serbian relations in the past months. "Detente" is mainly due to the fact that the mood is gradually changing in Serbia as well.

With respect to normalising relations, Horn said the chance to improve the Hungarian-Serbian relation has always been there, although Serbia's acceptance of a war role significantly hurt bilateral relations. The chances of building relations are again more promising in the somewhat stabilised situation following the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia. The Hungarian side believes the bases of this could be created through more active diplomacy and mainly by more balanced mass media reports.

One of the "delicate" issues remains the state of Hungarians in Vojvodina, and Budapest's related conduct. In this context, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee said that Hungary should—in concert with the generally approved international obligations—press for the full respect of the minority rights of the Hungarians in Vojvodina. However, Budapest should not be the one to take steps in the matter of these rights, formulating the demands is the task of the Hungarians in Vojvodina. Parallel to this, it would be expedient to reconfirm, again and again, that Hungary has no territorial claims.

Serbia's new-found conciliatory attitude was also welcomed by Gyorgy Csoti (Hungarian Democratic Forum), the deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

"Finally", Csoti said, "there is a sober voice from among the circles which so far were not characterised by this. I hold it extremely important for more and more political statements of a similar tone to be made in Belgrade, as it would be of exceptional significance not only from the point of view of Hungary and Serbia, and our region in the narrow sense, but also from the point of view of all Europe, were these relations to improve.

"All sober forces should, however, be aware that the nationalists who, either openly or covertly, put the aim of creating a great Serbia on their banner, cannot achieve their goals. This policy is definitely doomed to failure, for Europe does not tolerate such efforts. In this way, this political line should be re-evaluated, which presumably will also be accompanied by personal consequences," Csoti said.

On the whole, in view of the some 500,000 Hungarians living in Vojvodina, it is Hungary's priority interest to have the same good relations with Serbia as with any other southern Slav state.

Hungary is fully committed to the principles set down in the Helsinki final act and accordingly it rejects the forcible changing of borders, Csoti emphasized.

Horn Views Yugoslav Situation, Party Prospects

AU2101142592 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 18 Jan 92 p 4

[Interview with Hungarian Socialist Party Chairman Gyula Horn, chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, by Laszlo Rab in Zalaegerszeg, on 17 January: "It Is Not Enough To Declare Democracy"]

[Text] The recognition of Croatia and Slovenia by Hungary was not the only reason for the great interest shown in Gyula Horn during his visit to Zala County on 17 January. Gyula Horn gave an interview to our Zala County correspondent.

[Rab] We are already aware of the first reactions from Serbia. What do you expect in the future?

[Horn] For me, there was nothing surprising in the first reactions. The question now is what next. I agree with our prime minister's statement that we must create good relations with Serbia too. At the same time, I object to the fact that the government officials did not consult with the Foreign Affairs Committee prior to recognition of the two states. The Social Democratic Party in Austria found it necessary to first take the issue to Parliament. This should become the general practice in Hungary, too.

[Rab] In your opinion, what can we do with the pan-Serbian efforts that make use of the ethnic Hungarian population in Vojvodina as a means of extortion?

[Horn] We must definitely be cautious and, therefore, I would have preferred to propose accelerating political negotiations. We should consider the development of Hungarian-Serbian economic relations, because it is well known that Serbia also suffered huge economic damage during the war. In view of our traditionally good "Yugoslav" relations, we would have the opportunities to accelerate the Serbian economy, and Vojvodina would also enjoy the benefits of such a development.

[Rab] As for the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP], it seems that this party is slowly emerging from the political quarantine in which it was forced during the elections. Do you regard this as a success of your party, or as a weakness of your political enemies?

[Horn] We have tried to deal with Hungary's problems in Parliament in a responsible way, without bragging. It is well known that we are concentrating on economic and social issues. Our faction has also developed its own individual style. We try to engage in politics in a balanced way, free of extremism, and considering the professional arguments. Of course, Hungary's situation has also changed, including weakening our political enemies. However, the essential thing is that a sobering process has taken place. Many things do not work the way many people hoped in the spring of 1990. One can deny the existence of a crisis, but people increasingly feel that they are living in worse conditions. It is natural that public attention is focused on the political forces that are seeking a solution.

[Rab] Is there a tolerance limit in the activity of your faction? Recently, your party took a stand in favor of the dismissed police captain in Salgotarjan. Do you generally analyze the situation before taking such a stand?

[Horn] This 43-years-old police captain was a party secretary for one year at the beginning of the eighties. If this is enough reason to dismiss someone, I do not know what will happen to us. On such a basis, a lot of people working around the government could resign. If this practice takes root, it is indeed true that a political purge has begun in Hungary. However, our prime minister himself has protested against such purges. Many people complain that they had to resign because of political discrimination. When we ask for specific examples, many people are afraid to come forward, because they are afraid of retaliation and atrocities. Therefore, I say that it is not enough to declare democracy by "simple people" daring to ask questions from the prime minister or the finance minister on television. We must show in everyday life that one can prosper irrespective of one's political convictions, if one has not committed a major crime in the past.

Diplomatic Protocol Signed With Moldova

LD1701224992 Budapest MTI in English 1957 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Kishinev, January 16 (MTI)—The protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Moldova was today signed in Kishinev by Foreign Ministers Geza Jeszenszky of Hungary and Nicolae Tiu of Moldova. Hungary was the second country after Romania to establish diplomatic contact with Moldova. During his few hours, stay in Kishinev, Jeszenszky met Moldovan President Mircea Snegur. The Hungarian Foreign Minister held talks in Kuwait on January 13, and in Turkey on 14-15. He stopped in Kishinev on his way back from Istanbul.

Trade With Japan Increases in 1991

LD2101160192 Budapest MTI in English 1254 GMT 21 JAN 92

[Text] Tokyo, January 21 (MTI)—Trade between Hungary and Japan jumped over half by end of November and exceeded 400 million dollars, the Tokyo mission's annual report says. Part of the 58 per cent increase was because of the several Hungarian companies that began business relations with Japanese partners. Last year Hungary bought Japanese cars for $42 million and videos for $16 million. The number of Hungarian importers may well reach 1,000 as a result of import liberalization.

Exports show a similar tendency: The 10 largest companies accounted for 91 per cent of sales in 1990, compared to less than 70 per cent last year. For now, Hungarian imports, for the most part, electronic goods and consumer durables, and exports aluminium, steel, and pharmaceutical products, and textiles. These four product groups make up nearly half of overall exports to Japan.

Labor Minister on Immigrant Labor Overflow

AU2101125392 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Labor Affairs Minister Gyula Kiss by Attila Seres in Paris; date not given: "It Is Not Hungary the West Needs To Be Afraid Of"]

[Text] In their Paris center, the OECD countries held a two-day conference on the coordination of labor management and the joint efforts to halt the threatened invasion of laborers from the East. Gyula Kiss also participated in the conference and he gave an interview to the Paris correspondent of NEPSZABDSAG and MTI.

[Seres] To what do you attribute the fact that Hungary was invited to this conference?

[Kiss] This is the first time that Hungary has participated in the OECD ministers' conference. This invitation shows that the developed market economies are turning their attention to Eastern Europe. In their speeches, almost all the ministers emphasized the need to develop economic relations with Central and Eastern European states.

[Seres] Does this mean that the developed countries are afraid of the labor invasion from the East and, instead, they give help in these countries?

[Kiss] They are worried but they do not consider Hungary as one of the sources of invasion. Rather, they are worried about countries east of us. The refugee issue was a recurring theme of the speeches. When assessing this issue, I feel it is important to make clear that Eastern Europe should not be treated as one whole. Especially, because rather than being a source of the wave of refugees, Hungary will be a target country or a transit country of refugees. Therefore, we should be treated as a partner in the refugee issue.

[Seres] In your view, what proportions will unemployment in Hungary reach?

[Kiss] According to our estimates, the unemployment rate will be 12 to 12.5 percent by the end of 1992, which means more than 600,000 people. This proportion is just about bearable for the current state of the Hungarian economy.

[Sereg] Can we expect stricter measures regarding the reception of a labor force arriving from east of us?

[Kiss] The regulations on this issue already restrict the employment of foreigners and there is no need to tighten them further. However, as regards Hungarians arriving from beyond our borders, we do use some positive discrimination. There is also another area where we would like to remain flexible, namely some easing can be expected regarding the employment of the leaders of joint ventures operating with foreign capital.

Statistics on Unemployment Reported

LD2101160392 Budapest MTI in English 1308 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 21 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The number of unemployed in Hungary is likely to reach 600,000 (13 per cent) by the end of 1992, Ferenc Rolek, state secretary at the Hungarian Ministry of Labour, says in today's edition of the Budapest daily NEPSZABADSAG.

Rolek said that 400,000 people were out of work in Hungary at the end of 1991, adding he believed the growth rate he predicted was reasonable because the favourable processes in the Hungarian economy will still not make themselves felt on the labour market in 1992. In Rolek's opinion, unemployment, which this year will still be recessionary in nature, will, in connection with restructuring, gradually become structural by 1993, and with this, recessionary unemployment will cease.

The state secretary said that the solidarity fund—the fund employees and employers have to contribute to, and from which unemployment benefit is paid—will spend 500 billion forints in 1992, but added his ministry has not made any calculations which reveal how much the handling of unemployment really costs. The 1992 state budget has earmarked 13.5 billion forints for the employment fund, 11.8 billion forints of which will be available for what are known as active assets, i.e., restarting and the increase and maintenance of job opportunities.

The remainder will cover costs carried over from last year, such as the interest burden on restart loans, Rolek said. A total of 700 million forints has been set aside from the central employment fund for the intervention fund and 1.7 billion forints for employment associations, Rolek added. The intervention fund serves to tackle crisis situations, whilst the objective of employment associations is to reduce employment problems by concentrating means in single regions, and thus preventing masses of people from losing their jobs.

Rolek said that, according to Labour Ministry figures, about 30,000 jobless will cease to be eligible for unemployment benefit in 1992. It is mainly for this group that a new system will be developed: a type of unemployment benefit, this will be a fixed amount which will exist until the social welfare act has been created. [sentence as received] Local councils will be responsible for allocating the fixed dole. The financial situation the applicant and their family are in will determine whether or not they are granted the new benefit, the state secretary explained.

Goncz Says Trade Union Cooperation 'Indispensable'

LD1901114992 Budapest MTI in English 1807 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Budapest, January 17 (MTI)—Cooperation between trade unions is indispensable, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz said at a special Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions (DLITU) board session today. The DLITU has urged for trade union elections to be held by May, and called on parliament to pass a trade union law before then. DLITU and the National Federation of Workers' Councils are certain to win the support of 50 per cent of union members, DLITU leaders said. Other interest-representing organizations in Hungary include the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions (successor of the previous regime's trade union organization), the Intellectuals' Trade Union, the Solidarity Organization and the Cooperation Forum of Trade Unions.

Interior Minister Warns of Neo-Fascist Groups

LD2101130192 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 0630 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Report on a NEPSZABADSAG interview with Interior Minister Peter Boross commenting on Hungarian neo-fascists; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Hungarian neo-fascists who were held in detention in Gyor for 72 hours are allowed to go free while setting up their defense. The prosecutor of the metropolitan supreme prosecutor's office told NEPSZABADSAG that the reason they were not remanded into custody is because "the preparation for the forcible changing of the constitutional order was not realized."

[Boross] This group has established links with an extremist neo-Nazi organization in the United States and is in contact with the Viennese group, the Kuessel. It seems that its organization is very serious. News bulletins show that the Austrian group is fairly organized. The dangers must not be underestimated on the basis of European historical experience. By itself this group has not gotten anywhere yet, but still it has to be taken seriously. The procedures are a matter of course based on the government's concept on preventing this kind of work. We want to nip in the bud an organization that is now only being contemplated. We want to stop it from taking a more concrete form. This applies to extreme right-wing and left- wing groups alike.

Spokesman Affirms Soviet Withdrawal on Schedule

LD2101171292 Warsaw PAP in English 1609 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 21—Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Poland Yuriy Kashlev stated on Tuesday [21 January] that November 15 was the binding date for the withdrawal of combat units of the Northern Group of the former Soviet Army from Poland.

"So far things have been going on according to the timetable," he said.

The ambassador added that in 1991 over 10,000 soldiers of the Northern Group had been withdrawn from Poland, pointing out that Polish mass media tend to diminish this figure. However, Col. Stefan Golebiowski, press spokesman for the Polish Government plenipotentiary for Soviet troops stationed in this country, estimated that 4,300 Northern Group soldiers had left Poland last year.

He said that additional 6,000 mentioned by Kashlev might have left this country by air.

He recommended a cautious approach to statements by the Russian side, adding that the Soviet side has never released reports on numerical levels of troops stationed and withdrawn from Poland as well as never presented a pull out timetable.

Russia Agrees to Permanent Military Contacts

LD2101205292 Warsaw PAP in English 1916 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 21—Defence Minister Jan Parys and Ambassador of Russia to Poland Yuriy Kashlev on Tuesday [21 January] agreed on the forms of permanent contacts between the Polish Army and the Armed Forces of the Commenwealth of Independent States.

During today's meeting, Ambassador Kashlev briefed Minister Parys on the military and political situation in the Commonwealth and presented to his interlocutor the current status of the Commonwealth's Armed Forces. The ambassador assured the Polish side that all military commitments of the former Soviet Union, including international disarmament treaties will be honoured.

"We fully agreed with Poland's approach towards cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth and with armies of states members of the Commonwealth," the Russian ambassador said after the meeting.

According to spokesman for the Polish Defence Ministry Ireneusz Czyzewski, Minister Parys was to declare during the meeting, that "the government of Jan Olszewski is deeply interested in the development of good relations with Russia, where military contacts may have a vital role."

Czyzewski also said that "the balancing of mutual debt in the sphere of deliveries of military equipment and repair services has good prospects," and added that "the Russian side agreed to compensate its debt with deliveries of military equipment."

Skubiszewski Criticized Over Lithuanian Visit

LD1801000892 Warsaw PAP in English 1345 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 15—Wednesday's [15 January] issue of the NOWY SWIAT daily carries a critical comment by Wlodzimierz Sochacki who writes that the results of Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski's recent visit to Lithuania are little and he quotes leader of the Polish parliamentary floor group in the Lithuanian Diet Ryszard Maciejkianiec as saying that the Polish delegation came to Vilnius "walking on their knees."

The commentator recalls that shortly before Skubiszewski's visit to Lithuania, the Polish Foreign Ministry had vowed that the minister would go there not sooner than after the date of elections to local governments of the Vilnius and Salcininkai regions, both inhabited by Poles, is fixed. This date, however, was unknown even on the day of the minister's arrival in Vilnius, Sochacki writes.

The Lithuanian Poles are refused the right to vote at the time when the privatization process begins and previous local governments were dissolved under the pretext that Poles had supported the Moscow putsch in August last year, he stresses.

He also makes a point that the Polish-Lithuanian declaration was signed despite rather vague Lithuanian response to Poland pledge of no territorial claims to that country. Polish Foreign Ministry is also criticized for having ignored the opinion of the Polish Union in Lithuania which wanted the declaration signed after the discrimination of Poles is ended.

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official has recently said on TV, Sochacki writes, that for the polish diplomacy the reason of state is a priority over the interests of the Polish minority in Lithuania and he concludes that "it is bad when Polish diplomats fail to realize that the interest of Polish people living abroad is a substantial element of the Polish reason of state."

Olszewski Meets Bundestag Group Deputy Chairman

LD1901123892 Warsaw PAP in English 2303 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 15—Prime Minister Jan Olszewski met on Wednesday [15 January] with deputy chairman of the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/ Christian Social Union] floor group in the Bundestag, Karl-Heinz Harnhues. The German politician told newsmen that the talks focussed on the Polish-German cooperation and means of further collaboration among the Christian Democratic parties of the two countries.

Later in the day, at a meeting with chairman of the Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN) parliamentary floor group Krzysztof Krol, the German guest voiced his support for actions aimed at providing Poland and other post-Communist countries with possibilities of full integration with the West European countries. Krzysztof Krol opined that Polish integration with the West should be preceded by an association of Central and East European countries modelled on the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Speaking about integration plans Deputy Sejm (lower house) Speaker Dariusz Wojcik informed the German guest about dangers of dishonest activities of foreign firms, exploiting the the difficult economic situation of Poland.

Olszewski Interviewed on Economic, Social Problems

PM2001102292 Paris LE MONDE in French
14 Jan 92 pp 1, 10

[Interview with Polish Prime Minister Jan Olszewski by Gabriel Meretik; place and date not given]

[Text] [Meretik] How many social conflicts are you now facing in Poland?

[Olszewski] A large number. Far too many. But in most cases it is a conflict between the economic and psychological vestiges of the old system and the prospects opened up by the political changes. Contrary to what some people in the West, but also many Poles, think, we are already much closer to you politically than economically.

[Meretik] You said that the government preferred to resign rather than help lead the country to disaster. Are you not afraid that that might be interpreted as an admission of weakness?

[Olszewski] Not at all. I just wanted to clearly explain my position. Those who might feel like launching into that kind of operation must realize that they will have to pay a high price.

Contrary to what people might think if they are following from a great distance these protests and the chaos which seems to be taking hold, the majority of this country's inhabitants reject any idea of a return to the former communist system. The people are also aware of the huge distance which still separates us from a real market economy. They know that the path leading to it is still uncertain, difficult, and full of obstacles. It is obvious that that helps create a feeling of uncertainty, frustration, and discouragement. But nobody wants to return to the past. That is why the only argument which this government can put forward to counter these demands, which are, moreover, often justified, consists of clearly stating: "If you cannot make a new effort, if you cannot abandon your demands, you will have to agree to pay the price, in other words return to the past. You must choose...." And I think that argument will enable us to convince people.

[Meretik] Presently it is the weakest members of society who are paying the price for this policy—the children, the sick, retired people. Do you think you can ask them to make more sacrifices?

[Olszewski] I am aware that we have reached the limits not only of psychological resistance but also of the physical or even biological possibilities of some social groups. We absolutely must change course. But we cannot do so abruptly, quite simply because we do not have the means of doing so. If we did that now, we would endanger the delicate infrastructure of the new economy which we have had so much difficulty building. That is why we must continue on this very narrow path. We must do it in a determined and consistent way. Neither I nor my government has any alternative....

[Meretik] Are you not surprised and worried to see that the phenomenon of emigration, far from disappearing with the change of regime, seems to be increasing?

[Olszewski] It is probably regrettable, but much less dramatic than during the past 10 years. It was then a real tearing apart, a complete break, a renunciation, a rejection of their country and its system. People are leaving now simply because living is better "over there," because it is easier to earn money, and save money there. But all, or almost all, say: "We will return, we are not severing ties with our country, we feel we are Polish." And I am convinced that if we manage to achieve the change to which we aspire, they will return and this phenomenon will disappear.

[Meretik] Poland is facing a serious energy crisis. You have just announced new increases in the price of electricity, gas, and hot water, which has sparked off a wave of protest....

[Olszewski] That is first and foremost the consequence and illustration of the existence of the energy monopoly. We are currently working toward new solutions, but it will take time. In the short term we must make good the budget deficit which our predecessors left us. It is impossible for us to abandon these tariff increases, especially since the subsidies were unjustifiable. They amounted to paying for all, including those who are not in need and who, in addition, consume more than others. The very principle of subsidized prices is profoundly unfair. We will not abandon increases in some prices. On the other hand, we will seek every possible way of helping the poorest and weakest people.

[Meretik] For some time, we have had the impression that a current of opinion is emerging which is hostile to the entry of foreign capital into Poland.

[Olszewski] First, I will tell you that I am not seeing this capital flooding into Poland. But second, I think that this should once again be seen as the consequence of the communist administration's behavior. Those who would like to invest in Poland, and I meet many foreign industrialists or businessmen who do, say they are surprised at the difficulties they face, the obstacles which

they encounter. I too am astonished. In my view, that will not change until we have changed the state and administrative apparatus. But I am anxious to tell you that my government will make every effort to encourage foreign investment.

[Meretik] But there are a growing number of people demanding that the IMF stops trying to impose its policy on the Polish Government....

[Olszewski] It has never done so and is not doing so.

[Meretik] So why would some of your political friends like to renegotiate the agreements signed with the IMF?

[Olszewski] That is a misunderstanding. There is no question of renegotiating anything. We must simply stay in close contact with these institutions and have discussions with them. Indeed, we must react to developments which nobody could foresee, either on our side or on the side of the IMF and World Bank. We must simply seek information. And have discussions.

[Meretik] How do you feel, caught as you are between the devil in the shape of President Walesa and the deep blue sea in the shape of Parliament? It cannot always be easy....

[Olszewski] For the time being, I am only working with the deep blue sea, namely Parliament. Since I took office, the president has been on vacation in Gdansk. He only returned to Warsaw yesterday evening. And the only contacts I have had with him during that period have been short and rather conventional telephone converations. Nonetheless, I would like to stress that I have known Lech Walesa for 12 years. Eleven years as chairman of the Solidarity trade union and one year as president of the republic. Our relations have passed through various stages over those years, but they have always been extremely correct.

[Meretik] What are your main objectives now?

[Olszewski] At present I would say, to survive the first three months. They will be the most difficult.

The government has entered a sphere which was prepared by the previous cabinet. There is no room to maneuver. It must pursue a conventional and complete policy of continuation whereas it would have liked to launch into change. We have inherited a budget from our predecessors, at least for the first three months, and its ministerial structures. That probably explains why the population perceives this government psychologically as an additional government, similar to the two to which it has grown accustomed over the past two years. The population has not yet understood or accepted that this government would like to be a government of change.

[Meretik] You have not just inherited a budget or structures, but also some men who were allegedly imposed on you.

[Olszewski] A politician is never completely free in the choices he makes....

[Meretik] When you started to form your government, you were supported by a five-party coalition. Since then, it has collapsed.

[Olszewski] Do not trust appearances. The government's political base in parliament is probably stronger now than at the start of my mission.

[Meretik] At all events, you give the impression of relying primarily on political forces which stem from two historical sources in Poland: the peasant movement and the national christian movement.

[Olszewski] I prefer to describe to you what, in my view, should be the government's political synthesis. On the one hand, it is a question of the merger of anticommunist and independent traditions in the broadest sense, and, on the other, the desire to meet the challenges of the future: Our move toward the EEC, the definition of the new place we should find on our continent, the building of a new democratic system, and the establishment of a market economy. At all events, the direction we have taken is the same.

[Meretik] Your predecessors, like President Walesa, all started their mandate by making visit to Rome, to the Vatican, very quickly....

[Olszewski] All roads lead to Rome. Mine will probably take me there. But this is a difficult time and the present situation requires my full attention and for me to tackle the pressing tasks facing us. If I were to start traveling, however, I would readily start with Rome.

[Meretik] And after Rome?

[Olszewski] I think it will be the United States. That is simply because of the present situation in the world. The United States is now the last superpower which has survived the collapse of a world. There is still no new world order. However, it is obvious that the United States will have to play a crucial role in building that order. That is why I would like to find out about it in person, establish direct contacts, find points of contact, discover what the thinking there is at present, what the feelings toward us are there, assess the possibilities myself....

[Meretik] But what are you doing about Europe, which will soon be the leading world power?

[Olszewski] We are part of Europe. I regard it as familiar ground, a sure partner, an older relation, but one which is attentive and benevolent. The United States is completely different. I must discover it, I would even say learn about it....

[Meretik] What feelings do you have when you follow what is happening to the east of your borders? Relief? Fear? Hope?

[Olszewski] All three. Relief at seeing the Soviet Union disappear.

Fear, because the proposed radical economic changes now being implemented there, which are, moreover, inspired by what we have done in Poland, strike me as very risky when implemented in their situation and their socioeconomic structure. Second, because the breakup of the USSR into several national states seems to leave out the military-industrial complex. I strongly doubt that it will be possible to divide it between the different republics and above all that it will agree to remain inactive.

Finally, the hope I feel when I witness the emergence of national democratic states which, once again and in a friendly way, will be able to establish ties with their neighbors.

[Meretik] One final question, this time to you as a lawyer but also as government chief. Two subjects seem to be taboo in Poland, the death penalty and abortion....

[Olszewski] The death penalty is a matter of conscience. For me it does not arise. Like most Polish lawyers, I am obviously opposed to the death penalty. If a referendum was held on this subject now, I do not know what the result would be. But I am convinced that it would not be a question likely to cause great upheavals in public opinion. It is no longer a major issue. Moreover, in Poland, the death penalty is virtually no longer applied.

Abortion is a different problem. It is a social, medical problem. It is a large-scale problem. But it is also a moral problem.

However, as a lawyer, I would like to say that I do not see it as a penal, legal, or criminal problem....

Solidarity To Talk With Olszewski on Strikes

LD2101234292 Warsaw PAP in English 2314 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 21—The Solidarity union national commission debating in Gdansk decided Tuesday [21 January] to accept the proposal of the prime minister to hold talks on urgent social and economic problems, but at the same time it upheld the strike alert announced earlier.

A letter addressed to the national commission by Prime Minister Jan Olszewski and his proposal to hold negotiations is believed to have softened the stand of the hardliners in the commission who had insisted on making negotiations dependent on the withdrawal by the government of the energy price rises.

The package of matters that the union wants to discuss with the government includes the economic correctness of the recent energy price rises, and the issues of restructuring the power industry complex and reorienting the economic policy so as to boost economy and increase budget revenues.

In a resolution issued Tuesday, the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) leadership, too, decided to continue strike alert and demand negotiations with the government on its socioeconomic programme.

Meanwhile, five of the 17 textile workers, on a hunger strike in the central city of Lodz since January 8, have been hospitalized so far. At the same time, over a thousand representatives of local trade unions affiliated to the OPZZ manifested Tuesday their support for the Solidarity-backed hunger strike in this major centre of the Polish light industry.

In a similar development, six workers started a hunger strike in the Ozarow cement plant in Tarnobrzeg, southeast Poland, demanding talks with government representatives on change of the management and steps to heal the situation in the plant.

The miners trade union federation called on its members and supporters to demonstrate in front of the parliament building in Warsaw on January 28 in protest against rising unemployment and the government's economic policy.

Railwaymen's union of Tarnowskie Gory, southern Poland, who threatened to stop train traffic in the region on January 23, decided to continue talks on pay rises with the state railways (PKP) management on February 4.

Over 2.5 thousand workers of the PZl-Hydral aircraft manufacturer in Wroclaw, southwest Poland, continued their sit-in strike over the desperate situation in this industrial branch, but again assigned a group of workers to carry urgent export commitments.

Commenting on the strikes, Sejm (parliament) deputy and vice chairman of the Christian National Union (ZCHN) Marcin Libicki said that "the situation is very serious, but I should not expect an outbreak of social dissatisfaction or that people would take to the streets."

Labor Minister Interviewed on Strikes, Recession

AU2101211992 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 13 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Jerzy Kropiwnicki, minister of labor and social policy, by Grzegorz Cydejko in Warsaw; date not given: "Another Storm, Another Umbrella"]

[Excerpts] [Cydejko] Is the strike action planned for today and Thursday [23 January] merely another phase of social dissatisfaction, albeit a passing phase, or do you fear an escalation of industrial action later?

[Kropiwnicki] I do not think we are in any danger of dramatic militant action because two of the trade unions have not only explained the reasons behind the strike, but have also expressed their understanding of the government's powerlessness at the present time. Solidarity and Solidarity 80 Have indeed declared a strike in protest against the method of implementing the energy

price increases and against the fact that these increases were not discussed with the unions beforehand. In this respect, the strike is understandable, though I prefer there to be no strike.

[Cydejko] Nevertheless, the trade unions are becoming increasingly militant, and their leaders admit that fighting employers is one of the features of trade unionism. That could mean antigovernment demonstrations in future.

[Kropiwnicki] I think both the Solidarity unions will identify themselves with the independent republic's first government, even if their interests diverge from the government's interests. After all, one can struggle either for recognition of one's demands and rights or for the destruction of one's opponent. Within the framework of the political setup that has taken shape in Poland, the unions will fight to achieve concrete things, and not just to destroy. That makes Poland's situation much more stable than that of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and many other countries. Fortunately, right now we have nothing but brief warning strikes, which will not worsen the economic situation. Thanks to the feeling of responsibility displayed by the trade union leaderships, even the dates of warning strikes have been arranged in an orderly schedule, therefore there is little danger of these strikes getting out of control and turning into a general strike. I am very pleased with the fact that no strikes are scheduled for 14 and 15 January. I asked the trade union authorities to omit these two days because that is when I am due to attend an OECD conference of highly developed countries. A warning strike on those two days would be construed by that forum as an expression of no confidence in the government and in Solidarity, and the trade unions concurred in that view. [passage omitted]

[Cydejko] Do you think that once the strikes are over, the government will have an easier time?

[Kropiwnicki] No. There could be an easier time if it were possible to reverse economic trends and make each month better than the last, but I do not think that is possible for the time being. My colleagues in the Olszewski government and I can only hope we can succeed in halting the economic decline and creating conditions for lifting the economy out of the recession. We are counting on being able to concentrate rather more resources on those areas of Poland and branches of the economy that are suffering from the recession particularly badly. That may provide a basis for new hopes. But we are aware of the state of the economy we have taken over. It is far worse than the description of it contained in the state of the nation report prepared by the previous government. I regret to say that this is no cause for optimism.

Sejm Bodies Accept Proposed Budget Deficit

AU2201122692 Warsaw PAP in English 2147 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 18—The government's proposal for a budget deficit of 17.5 trillion zlotys (around 1.5 billion dollars) for the first quarter of 1992 was accepted by two Sejm (lower house) committees on Saturday [18 January], after several hours of debate.

The Economic Policy, Budgetary and Finance Committee and the Legislative Committee were involved in hours of debate and rejected three other proposals before coming to a decision.

The Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN) had wanted an increase in the proposed budget deficit by another 16.5 trillion zlotys, which would have almost doubled the government's figure. Only the three KPN deputies voted in favour of this.

On behalf of the Democratic Left Alliance (ex-communists), Marek Borowski had proposed a 4.5 trillion zloty increase (around 450 million dollars) and the Social Policy Commission had proposed an increase of 2.1 trillion zlotys (about 200 million dollars).

New Structure Chosen for Economic Committee

LD2101212592 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The government today replaced the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers with the Socio-economic Committee. Jerzy Eysymontt, head of the Central Planning Office, has been nominated as its chairman. The committee will advise and give opinions on draft laws and instructions considered by the government. Minister Eysymontt said that the composition of the committee will be reduced from 12 to seven people.

The first point of discussion was the draft budget for the whole 1992. However, the government will not deal with this document in detail until its next meeting. The Council of Ministers has considered six out of 16 draft laws which the Sejm of the previous term did not manage to consider and which will go to the parliament after amendments. These will be, among others: the building regulations law, the law on the military oath, and the law on the protection of state and official secrets.

The government also decided that the priority in buying up apartments belonging to former state farms will go to state farm workers, old age and disability pensioners, and persons dismissed for economic reasons.

The ministers decided that the Radio and Television Affairs Committee, the Ministry of Telecommunications, and the Ministry of Culture will draw up, within a month, a draft law on radio and television which will probably constitute an alternative to the Sejm deputies' draft.

Stolojan Issues Communique on Salary Increase

AU1801184592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1632 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/1/1992—As already reported, the executive met for the second time this week, on Saturday 18 January, in an extraordinary sitting this time.

At the close of the debates, Romania's prime minister read out a communique that, based on the assessment of the situation in the economy, on the stage of negotiations between the representatives of the employers' association and the union federations, made decisions, some of them provisional, regarding the system of establishment of the salary fund with the commercial companies with mostly state-owned capital in 1992, the salary of the staff in the units paid out of the national budget, the establishment of the minimum gross basic salary at a national level and of the salary indexation rate for the period January-April 1992, the indexation of the unemployment benefits, pensions, scholarships, state child benefits, food allowances for collective consumption and social benefits.

As of January 1,1992, following the indexation contingent upon the price rise, the salary fund is raised, through indexation by 11.1 per cent (at the level of the average salary the rise accounts for about 1,420 lei), the gross minimum salary in the economy is established at 50 lei/hour or 8,500 lei/month, as against 7,000 lei on December 31,1991, i.e. by 21.4 per cent higher. The bigger rise in the minimum salary takes account of the adjustment made for the November-December 1991 period, when the gross minimum salary rose 3.3 per cent (i.e. from 6,775 lei to 7,000 lei) as compared with the general indexation of 12.5 per cent.

Following the salary indexation to be applied as of January 1, 1992, the salary-price ratio goes up to some 0.83. The government will carefully follow the monthly change of the respective ratio and, correlated with the evolution of production, will make the necessary adjustments in the indexation policy.

The pensions are risen by 11.1 per cent, so that the minimum pension for old age and full length of service will be 5,380 lei, as compared with 4,844 lei in December 1991. As of January 1, 1992 the reconsideration started of the additional pensions established in the last 5 years and the proposal was made in the parliament that the additional pensions be risen by 200 per cent, so that the average additional pension may reach some 700 lei, as compared with 218 lei now.

Also, the state child benefits, the scholarships for pupils and students are raised.

The government, Prime Minister Stolojan said, is resolved to eliminate and avert artificial phenomena irresponsibly generated, that have been manifest especially in the Bucharest market, through the rise in the prices of some sorts of meat and meat products. To this end, it has decided that the price negotiation for the main products of this class should be done under the control of the specialty bodies in the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism.

Likewise, the government has decided that the specialty research institutes should analyze the problems of the poverty limit in Romania. The results of these surveys shall be made public.

The communique read out by the Romanian prime minister also shows that the government rejects the allegations of some partners in the dialogue as to the absence of a conception and of a program of action, and states it once more that all resolutions it has made and will make are directly subordinated to the targets of transition to a free market economy, as well as of administrating the economy in the period for which it is vested by the parliament, all while considering the current imbalances.

The Romanian Government, the communique concludes, reiterates its readiness to continue the dialogue on labor relations and asks the employers' organizations and the union federations to go on with the negotiations for the conclusion of the collective bargaining agreements at all levels, taking account of the real economic and financial possibilities of the economic agents.

FSN Leader Roman Discusses Prime Ministership

AU2101170592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1027 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/1/1992—Petre Roman, national leader of the National Salvation Front [FSN] and prime minister over December 1989-September 1991, granted an interview to "COTIDIANUL." After opining that "it is an utopia to remake history" he stated that what he felt about the state of prime minister was "a pain, a permanent pain for something that was going wrong." Agreeing that until September 1991 he headed an executive of technocrats, to become then a politician, the former prime minister stresses "this option was the expression of the refusal to be coward after the events of September 1991" when, he said, "were I to leave the political life it would have been the act of a defeated man." That is why he opted "to maintain his political beliefs" and "to impose them where this is possible, by political means."

Recalling the major moments of the period he acted as prime minister Petre Roman says that "the transformation of a power structure into a party through the statement of the January 23, 1990 of the National Salvation Front Council was 'an original sin' but at that moment I did not know that. There was something I did not like but I cannot tell you how I reacted. Today the former prime minister, now national leader of the National Salvation Front considers the January 23 act not to have been in concordance with the democratic

path on which the Front had embarked, but that was due to the fact that 'certain political options manifest at that time became prevalent.'"

Referring to the "University Square phenomenon" of May-June 1990 Petre Roman says "it was an unhappy moment for a society which I, as prime minister, had the obligation to preserve, maintain, present in an as orderly and coherent form as possible." Although the phenomenon disturbed him, as he assesses in the interview, Petre Roman is of the opinion that until the May 20 elections "no one had the moral right" to eliminate that phenomenon "by means of peacekeeping forces." But after the elections, in the ex-prime minister's opinion, "it turned into a demonstration that did acknowledge the fact that we wanted to live in a democracy" and its continuators "were people who actually did not want to acknowledge the will of the people" expressed in the elections.

Asked what he thought about the setting up of the parliamentary commission to inquire into "the Roman rule" the former premier said "the commission, by the way it was set up, proves it is political and not parliamentary in nature."

About the "Iliescu-Roman conflict" the interviewee said "we actually no longer shared the same stands, the same thoughts, the same political ideas." During the first events that required a dramatic option each of us showed clearly the beliefs he nurtured," the FSN leader said.

PNTcd President Fears Electoral Violations

AU2101130592 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 15 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, by "I.P."; place and date not given: "We Would Like See-Through Ballot Boxes in the Local Elections"]

[Excerpts] [I.P.] Mr. President, the law on the administrative elections was considered by our newspaper as something that simply regulates the falsification of the ballot. Do you think that this assessment is rather exaggerated?

[Coposu] The National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTcd] has advanced a draft law on the administrative elections, which was ignored, of course, as is the habit of the ruling majority. The law worked out by Parliament is full of provisions that are incompatible with the democratic concept and leaves room for possible fraud. Aside from our draft bill, they even rejected various amendments proposed. The Parliament finally passed a law which contains insufficient guarantees about the correctness of the elections. What it mainly lacks is adequate guarantees that the opposition parties will be able to oversee the voting operations and the registration of the ballot results.

[I.P.] Also lacking are provisions to punish those found guilty of fraud.

[Coposu] Yes, it is a law without sanctions. Even if we are used to a certain practice—namely that if the law had provided for such punishment, the government would have immediately amnestied the guilty ones after the elections—one cannot overlook the deterrent effect of possible sanctions: Before the voting, they might inhibit those people predisposed to electoral fraud.

[I.P.] There seems to be quite a few such people....

[Coposu] The elections will be organized and supervised, on the part of the government, by people of doubtful integrity, namely by the prefects and mayors belonging, as a rule, to the old communist structures. The National Salvation Front [FSN] prefects handpicked the mayors from among the regime's people. In view of the confusion and intimidation prevailing in the villages, the presence of these communist elements is demoralizing and blatantly favors the government. [passage omitted]

[I.P.] The elections will be influenced not only by the express provisions of the laws. There is also an inertia of existing technical facilities that have long since favored the government; they will continue to be placed in the service of their master.

[Coposu] You are obvious referring to television, first and foremost. Before talking about it, I would like to make a few remarks about another technical matter. We asked for the construction of see-through ballot boxes instead of normal ones, which are more likely to be replaced or have their content altered through the introduction of illicit votes. Our request was however rejected, the reason invoked being that see-through ballot boxes—which are used even in the African countries—are too expensive. Since so many millions of lei were spent on a useless referendum, why save now at the expense of certain indispensable instruments that could ensure the correctness of the elections?

There are other technical aspects that will have a major impact on the outcome. On the one hand, the increase in the price of paper has imposed very serious restrictions on the printing of our party press. On the other, the increase in the price of fuel has made it impossible to travel and campaign in the field. These shortcomings can only be made up for by reaching the villages through radio and television. However, the television is in a state of total servitude vis-a-vis the political power. It continues its disinformation and distortion of political events, with a view to serving the political power.

[I.P.] However, a commission made up of representatives of the political parties was set up to oversee and coordinate the audio-visual electoral programs until the elections.

[Coposu] The noxious nature of the television management can be seen even after the creation of this commission. The Democratic Convention has categorically demanded from the prime minister that it remove the current television management, which has given catastrophic proof of bias and total lack of objectivity. We

consider that such television management cannot contribute to honest elections. We are waiting for the measures promised by the prime minister to remedy the situation. [passage omitted] I would like to mention that the radio programs are much more objective than the TV ones. Television continues the same pattern of intimidation and disinformation we have become accustomed to in recent years. [passage omitted]

[I.P.] Mr. President, a thorough study of the law on administrative elections projects a relatively disheartening picture. There is so much room for fraud, that one almost fails to see the point of contesting this election. Nevertheless, it is still worth a try. Why and with what chances do we, the Democratic Convention, participate in this ballot?

[Coposu] From official polls—that are frequently being made but are kept secret by the government—we got wind of information that made us conclude that the FSN is losing popularity at a catastrophic rate. No public opinion poll taken in the past two months has given the ruling party more than 30 percent of the electorate's preference. One should add that these results are probably adjusted, since we all aware of the "objectivity" of the polling institute. In the towns, the FSN has lost a very large part of its endorsement. In the villages, where a certain confusion prevails, the loss of popularity of the ruling party is constantly growing. In these circumstances, we imagine that the Front will try to offset this loss of popularity through unlawful practices. We hope to be able to thwart their attempts. All parties belonging to the Democratic Convention instructed their local organizations to take steps to foil any such attempts. We have an advantage: The FSN chose as candidates people who are generally compromised through corruption, abuses, and dissatisfaction caused during the implementation of the law on the land, the distribution of rationed food, and so forth. These people have lost all their credit with the population. In the local elections, people do not elect a political grouping, but worthy administrators that are invested with the people's trust. The people want administrative structures that can deal effectively with their problems. Of course, the current representatives of political power are not likely to attract the people's trust. The Democratic Convention decided that, regardless of sectarian trends, it should select candidates on the exclusive criteria of honesty, administrative skills, and the capacity of drawing the people's endorsement. Therefore, the issue now is just to properly supervise the elections and foil any attempts at fraud. Given past experience and the large number of voluntary observers, we will manage to defeat fraudulent attempts in these elections.

Opposition Democratic Convention Holds Briefing

AU1801183892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1901 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/1/1992—The leaders of political parties and groupings that make up the Democratic Convention organized Friday, January 17, a press conference at Hotel Bucuresti in the capital city to set forth their points of view on the convention's strategy during the election campaign.

The aim of this alliance is to win local elections, while the binder that unites the political parties and groupings forming it lies in eradicating the structures of communism, stated Peasant Party leader Corneliu Coposu.

Some of the leaders attending the conference also approached the question of the future legislative and presidential elections. They specified that the convention had advanced no proposal so far for a candidate to the presidency. PNL [National Liberal Party] leader Radu Campeanu showed his intention to officially propose that presidential elections should not take place concurrently with the legislative ones. He also underscored the need for the organization of a referendum on the ruling form in Romania.

The Romanian people alone is entitled to choose a government form, added Mr. Corneliu Coposu while criticizing the present constitution of Romania.

In his turn, PSDR [Social Democratic Party of Romania] leader Sergiu Cunescu highlighted that after such a long dictatorship the presidential republic was a dangerous ruling form.

As is known the Democratic Convention includes six parties and political groupings: The National Liberal Party (PNL), the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party, the Social Democratic Party of Romania (PSDR), the Ecologic Movement of Romania (MER), the Ecology Party of Romania (PER) and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (UDMR).

FSN Releases Communique Urging Price Controls

AU1801191392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1454 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/1/1992—"The National Salvation Front [FSN], as pioneer and promoter of the political and economic reform in Romania, remains a faithful bearer of the ideas for the country's renewal, the refloating of the economy through the building of a concrete and efficient framework for the functioning of the market", reads a National Salvation Front communique released to ROMPRES.

The FSN reaffirms that "there is no other possible choice to overcome the economic disaster accumulated under the communist regime and the current economic difficulties, but the continuation of the policy of reforms," and assesses as daring Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan's action to continue that policy, to the benefit of economic stabilization and of maintaining the course of Romania's integration in the international bodies and economic community.

According to the FSN, in its practical action, the government should use financial-banking instruments to

encourage the competitivity of Romanian products, create advantages for export and channel imports toward a more efficient use of energy.

"On the other hand, the setting of the prices with the products traded between branches without taking account of the changes in the structure of property, without the objective support of the concrete analysis of the extant possibilities and without long-term strategies, leads to spiralling inflation concomitant with a drop in domestic production.

Worrying for the meeting of the population's demands," the FSN release shows, "are the farm-food products for which the subsidizing of farm operations can and must be correlated with a policy of curbing the price rises with the basic sorts. The subsidies should be directly given to farm producers and not to the central and centralizing administration," the FSN opines. It reiterates the necessity of a package of measures conductive to a sobering of the prices, meaning to bring them nearer to the population's real purchasing possibilities, by increasing the volume of goods in the market. The relevant economic ministries and the banking system have the duty to urgently leave behind their immobility and lack of initiative, concretely favoring programs of recovery at the level of enterprises.

The FSN considers that the dismantlement of the old structures and the emergence of new ones is possible only through the consolidation of Romania's position as a center of economic and commercial interest in Europe.

The National Salvation Front concludes its release by reiterating its stand that the major target of the current government's policy should further be social stability sustained by economic refloating.

PNL Advocates Official Monitoring of Prices

AU2101174392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0851 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/1/1992—The National Liberal Party [PNL] notes that prices were raised more particularly in the state-owned sector influencing the prices in the private trade companies as well, reads a communique sent to ROMPRES for release. The present monetary disbalance a consequence of which is, inter alia, the latest steep price rise, the communique reads, originates in the salary policy pursued in 1990 and in the first part of 1991 when the principle of correlating pay rises with productivity was deliberately violated.

Although in the opinion of the PNL the introduction of a centralized price control would be a big step backwards as to the liberalization of the economy, the aforementioned document further reads, it thinks it necessary that the Ministry of the Economy and Finance should check the way of setting the present exaggerate prices, and that the negotiations on prices of foodstuffs be monitored by the Department for Prices and Protection of Competition of the aforementioned ministry.

The PNL believes that the major solution of keeping prices at an ever lower level and of increasing the population's real incomes is the broadest and soonest expansion of privatization.

Proposals on Nuclear Plant Construction Issued

AU1801191292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1058 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/1/1992—With a view to completing construction works on the nuclear power plant at Cernavoda on the term stipulated by a government decision the Romanian Industry Ministry suggested that the executive discuss and endorse two draft resolutions providing for the conclusion of credit conventions with "Export Development Corporation" of Canada and with "Mediocredite" of Italy to finance the contract for works on the aforesaid unit (the draft provides for the creation of a team for negotiations and the authorization of the Ministry of Economy and Finance for the guarantee of credit conventions) and for modalities of ensuring the supply for the nuclear power plant at Cernavoda by priority deliveries of materials, equipment and services to the plant by economic agents.

Mr. Dan Constantinescu, minister of industry, submitted to the government proposals for the ensurance of funds from the state administration budget needed in 1992 to complete the unit in consideration of the influence exerted by the unification of the exchange rate and by the rise in prices on the cost of investment.

International

Bulgarian Ambassador Rejects Recognition 'Protest'

AU1701173092 Sofia BTA in English 1705 GMT 17 Jan 92

[BTA correspondent's report from Belgrade: "Bulgaria's Ambassdor on Accusations Against Bulgaria"]

[Text] Belgrade, January 17 (BTA)—Today Bulgaria's ambassador to Yugoslavia, Mr. Marko Markov, was invited to the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and was handed a note in connection with the decision of the Bulgarian Government to recognize Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Hercegovina as independent states. The note expresses regret and energetic protest. The Bulgarian Government is accused of having made a step that could affect seriously Bulgarian-Yugoslav relations.

The Bulgarian ambassador stated he could not accept the energetic protest, moreover, it is based on documents which are obviously misinterpreted by the Yugoslav authorities. He presented the statement Bulgaria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stoyan Ganev, made last night in connection with the government's decision, its implementation and the principled foreign policy pursued by Bulgaria's new government. The Bulgarian ambassador rejected as absurd the accusations of "paternalism" towards Macedonia and reminded that in International Law the recognition of a country's statehood does not imply a recognition of the category "people" or "nation"—a matter which the respective country's citizens should decide out of their own free will.

Austria's Mock Meets Croat, Slovene Leaders

Calls For Dialogue

AU1801205292 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1859 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Mock visited Croatia and Slovenia, which were recognized as independent states on 15 January.

In Zagreb, he called on the two republics to reestablish the dialogue with Serbia and the rest of Yugoslavia. Only in this way can the armistice be turned into permanent peace. Foreign Minister Separovic stressed Mock's services to Croatia's independence. Mock is a politican of European caliber and a man of the world, he said.

Mock traveled from Zagreb to Ljubljana where he met with Foreign Minister Rupel and President Kucan.

Mock Meets With Separovic

LD2201085492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Report by reporter Sandra Pusin-Djurin]

[Text] Dr. Alois Mock, federal minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Austria, and his delegation, who are on their first official visit to the Republic of Croatia since its international recognition, held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Zvonimir Separovic this morning at the Croatian Foreign Ministry. Dr. Mock handed a letter to Dr. Separovic from the Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on diplomatic recognition of the Republic of Croatia.

Dr. Zvonimir Separovic thanked Austria and Dr. Mock for his efforts and support on the path to recognition of the Republic of Croatia. He also thanked him for all the aid Austria is providing for Croatian refugees, 12,000 of whom are in Austria. Dr. Separovic stressed the good service Austria has provided for Croatia at the international level. The Croatian foreign minister gave Dr. Mock a petition with 50,000 signatures of Zagreb citizens, expressing their thanks to Dr. Mock for this support.

The Austrian foreign minister said that he wanted to convey the regards of all the Austrians who want to help and are helping. He hopes that there will be no more war and refugees in Croatia and that Austria will provide assistance in economic rebuilding and development of the Republic of Croatia.

The Austrian foreign minister and his delegation held talks with Cardinal Franjo Kuharic. Then the Austrian delegation and the Croatians accompanying them went to Jabukovac, where the main consulate of the Republic of Austria was. Dr. Mock erected a plaque on the embassy building.

The Austrian delegation went to the residence of the president of the Republic of Croatia, where it will hold talks with President Franjo Tudjman. A formal luncheon in honor of the guests will be organized by Franjo Tudjman at Zagorje villa.

A news conference is scheduled afterward at Intercontinental Hotel.

'Presses' for UN Deployment

AU1801211492 KURIER in German 18 Jan 92 p 3

["S.G." report: "Mock Presses For Speedy Deployment of Blue Helmets"]

[Text] After the broad recognition of Croatia and Slovenia, Foreign Minister Mock is calling for the speedy dispatch of UN blue helmets to Bosnia-Hercegovina where bloodshed still can be prevented. Mock, who is making an initial visit to the new neighboring states today, now puts priority on securing an armistice. In Zagreb, he wants to press for the exact fulfillment of the protection of minorities that might set a new standard in Europe. In order to be recognized, the other republics, including Serbia, must accept the same strict conditions. There is no automatic legal succession of Yugoslavia, he said. It must be clarified in negotiations between the

republics. Currently, a process of "derecognizing" Yugoslavia, an unprecedented action and not regulated by international law, is going on, he said. Mock wants to advocate Slovenia's and Croatia's speedy admission to international organizations, and also announced help in reconstruction.

Called 'Hero of Recognition'

AU1901151392 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 19 Jan 92 pp 2-3

[Kurt Seinitz report: "We Will Always Be Grateful to Austria!"]

[Excerpts] Zagreb/Ljubljana—Yesterday, Foreign Minister Alois Mock was celebrated as a "hero of recognition" during his lightning visit to Croatia and Slovenia. Special tribute was paid to his and Austria's pioneering role for Croatia's and Slovenia's concerns. [passage omitted]

Among other things, the foreign minister also mentioned the question of an autonomy regulation for the former Austrians in Slovenia to Slovene President Kucan. Mock told NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: "This question is very sensitive in our direct neighboring country Slovenia. Croatia has promised us full minority rights for the former Austrians. This also applies to the return of confiscated property values."

In a short interview with NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG, Croatian President Tudjman stated that Croatia's recognition according to international law, and the deployment of UN troops, has ended the war and might even result in a comprehensive solution to the Yugoslavia crisis. Referring to the conflict between the Serbian leaders in Croatia and the Serbian leadership in Belgrade, Tudjman said that this is a result of the defeat of Serbian imperialism. It was not able to reach its objectives, and Croatia succeeded in opposing it, he said. Regarding the refusal of the Serbian leaders in Croatia to permit the deployment of UN blue helmets, Tudjman stated threateningly: "The deployment is clearly laid down in the UN agreement. If the Serbs try to prevent this, we will be forced to clear this area for the United Nations with our own forces."

Peterle Receives Mock

LD1901153992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1642 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Maribor, Zagreb, Jan 18 (TANJUG)—Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock today congratulated the Slovenian people on great success in implementing their democratic decision on Slovenia's independence. Mock made the statement at Sentilj border crossing where he was met by Slovenian Premier Lojze Peterle.

The Austrian foreign minister arrived on visits to the breakaway Yugoslav Republics of Slovenia and Croatia, which have so far been recognized by some 30 countries. During the visits, Mock is due to meet the presidents of Slovenia and Croatia, Milan Kucan and Franjo Tudjman.

Peterle said that he felt obliged to personally greet Mock and thank him for everything he had done for Slovenia's international recognition.

Mock first left for Zagreb, where he will unveil the plate bearing the name of the Austrian Embassy in the Croatian capital.

Rupel on Austrian State Treaty

AU1901171092 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1618 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Slovenia does not doubt that it "has its place in the Austrian State Treaty." Slovene Foreign Minister Rupel told this to Foreign Minister Mock.

Mock, who earlier visited Zagreb, pointed out in Ljubljana that experts in the Austrian Foreign Ministry have come to the conclusion that there is no automatic succession in Yugoslavia's case. However, this is no obstacle to "a discussion on one or another question."

In the next few weeks, there will be deliberations between experts from Vienna and Ljubljana, Mock announced.

Paper Charges West 'Hastily Arming Croatia'

LD1701182992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1152 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Jan (TANJUG)—POLITIKA EKSPRES carries an article today entitled "Ominous Haste," in which it reveals that Hungary, Austria, Germany, and Italy are hastily arming Croatia. The newspaper claims 60 T-55 tanks have been dispatched to Croatia from the territory of former East Germany, mobilization is continuing in Croatia, and a similar campaign is being conducted in Sibenik, Dubrovnik, Zadar, and other major cities. The article also states that the Slovene port of Koper is the key factor in the equipping of the Croatian Army with relatively modern weapons from the West.

POLITIKA EKSPRES notes that the present regrouping of units, as well as the stockpiling of heavy weaponry and antiaircraft and antitank equipment, is the Croatian supreme command's strategy.

Is it just caution or a preparation for an offensive? POLITIKA EKSPRES says: As far as we can tell, the latter is more likely. Although the EC positively declared that recognition did not mean definite military aid, it is a question of days—especially in case of renewed hostilities—before the generous military aid operation is brought into the open. This explains the ominous haste in recognizing the northern republics before rational action by the United Nations, POLITIKA EKSPRES concludes.

Serbian Rebels Reportedly Receiving Finnish Arms

LD2101210292 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1000 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Serbian rebels operating in Croatia have some Finnish weapons. According to Markus Leikola, our reporter in Belgrade, the rebels have received assault rifles and explosives, among other things, via a middleman in Germany.

The Serbian Guard is one of the many Serbian guerilla organizations fighting alongside the Yugoslav Federal Army. (Milovij Radulovic), the operational commander of the Guard, ranking as the second man in the organization, said on a Yleisradio interview last night that the group has different kinds of Finnish weapons. According to the Finnish export license system, no weapons should go to areas of war operations, and the rebel commander, who is better known as Commander Charlie, complained that it is very difficult to get Finnish weapons. However, he gave assurances that everything is available if you only have enough money. In this case, the weapons have found their way to Yugoslavia through a German arms dealer.

Although the amounts are not large, the selection is impressive: Valmet assault rifles, Jati-Matic submachine guns, cartridges from Sako, and explosives from Kemira. The Serbian Guard has about 15 Valmet assault rifles, and they are used only by the elite of the organization, whereas the ordinary soldiers will have to be satisfied with Kalashnikovs manufactured in Eastern Europe. According to Commander Charlie, you can get a Kalashnikov for about 1,000 Finnish markka on the international markets, whereas the Valmet is at least four or five times as expensive.

During the evening and the night, Commander Charlie praised the characteristics of the Valmet profusely. He described the explosives from Kemira as very even in its quality and reliable. [passage omitted]

Federal

Presidency Statement Accuses Croatians of Genocide

LD2101203292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1836 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, January 21 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Presidency concluded today on the basis of collected documents, that the illegal Croatian paramilitary formations had perpetrated crimes in those territories of this secessionist Yugoslav republic, which are predominantly Serb-populated, and which qualify as genocide by international standards.

There is numerous evidence of criminal acts perpetrated by Croatian paramilitary forces and carried out with the intention of creating an ethnically pure territory, as underscored in a statement issued after today's session of the Yugoslav Presidency, presided over by Vice-President Branko Kostic and attended by top federal officials.

It is added that there is evidence of the murder and massacre of members of the Serbian and other nationalities, of torture and the forced emmigration and expulsion of Serbs from Croatia, the torching of Serb villages and the killing and slitting of prisoners' throats ahead of an exchange of prisoners, and other atrocities.

Crimes were also perpetrated against members of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), they were massacred, banned ammunition was used, etc., underscored the Yugoslav Presidency.

The statement also says that the available documentation shows that in areas in Croatia which were the scene of armed conflicts and are predominantly Serb-populated, enormous material damages have been caused—houses have been demolished and burned down, whole settlements destroyed, production has stopped, etc. Especially great damages have been caused by the forceful confiscation of objects, means, arms and equipment belonging to the JNA.

The Yugoslav Presidency has entrusted competent federal organs with undertaking measures and activities for the efficient collecting and systematization of evidence of the war crimes and genocide committed against the Serbian people during last year's armed conflicts in Croatia.

The Yugoslav Presidency has also Proposed that the Federal Chamber of the bi-cameral federal parliament set up a panel of inquiry into the crimes, with the task of coordinating the work of the competent federal organs and of informing international forums, the domestic and international public of the facts and results arrived at.

The Yugoslav Presidency has also proposed that the Yugoslav Federal Government form a commission for establishing and assessing the material damages caused during the armed conflicts and propose methods of coping with the resulting consequences, especially the problem of accomodating refugees.

The statement adds that the Yugoslav Presidency has upheld the work of the federal government on collecting data on the engagement of mercenaries and terrorists in the Croatian paramilitary formations, including data on Croatia's arms imports from neighbouring and other countries.

The Yugoslav Presidency has agreed that the federal government send the United Nations and other international institutions a text of the memorandum on the desecration of the area of Jasenovac and the repeated genocide in Croatia. The Jasenovac memorial was constructed in the place of the former concentration camp in

Croatia in which the ustashi (Croatian fascists) killed 700,000 Serbs, Jews and Romanies during the Second World War.

The Croatian paramilitary formations attacked and damaged the memorial area whose vicinity is predominantly inhabited by Serbs, in early October last year.

Claims Croatia Provoking Conflict

LD2101162192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1548 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 21 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Presidency said today the 15th ceasefire was mainly observed in Croatia, but the Croatian side was trying to provoke a larger-scale conflict so as to thwart the arrival of a UN peace-keeping force.

Presidency session today, chaired by Presidency Vice-President Branko Kostic, federal officials informed the Yugoslav Presidency about the current political and security situation, and the conditions in the conflict areas, as it was announced.

The session was attended by Yugoslav parliament President Slobodan Gligorijevic, Deputy Federal Prime Minister Aleksandar Mitrovic, Interior Minister Petar Gracanin, acting Defence Minister and head of the Yugoslav Armed Forces General Staff Blagoje Adzic, Deputy Foreign Minister Milivoje Maksic and Federal Public Prosecutor Ljubomir Prljeta.

Bosnian Referendum Said to Violate Constitution

LD2201133292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1133 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 22 (TANJUG)—A general referendum being proposed for the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to reach a decision on self-determination would be in contravention of the constitutions of Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, as that decision can only be made at national referendums of each of the republic's three constitutive peoples, acting secretary of the Yugoslav Assembly's Commission for Legislation and Law, Radomir Sturanovic, has told TANJUG.

The Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina has a mixed population of Moslems, Serbs and Croats, and the referendum is being proposed by political parties rallying Moslems or Croats. Sturanovic criticizes the Arbitration Commission of the EC and the community itself for "not proceeding from the clearly-worded provision of the Yugoslav Constitution defining Yugoslavia as a voluntary and open state community of the Yugoslav peoples, who all have the right to self-determination, including the Serbian people in the Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina."

A working group of the Committee for Socio-Political Relations of the Federal Chamber of the Yugoslav Assembly is discussing in Belgrade today the first version of the draft law on the conditions and procedure of the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination.

The law, expected to be adopted in mid-February, will lay out the steps to be taken in the process of establishing the new Yugoslavia, which would be made up of all peoples who have expressed a desire to remain in it.

Official Forecasts 1,000 Percent Inflation Rate

LD2101173192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1558 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—From 1 to 10 January this year, the annual inflation rate reached 650-700 percent. If the accelerated rise in prices continued between 10-20 January, annual inflation will top 1,000 percent.

This was stressed by Director of the Federal Institute for Prices Branko Gostovic in a brief statement for TANJUG. He warned that the tendency of bigger rises in prices will continue after the period mentioned. [passage omitted]

Article Says Milosevic 'Losing Control'

92BA0385D Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 10 Jan 92 p 2

[Article by Aleksandar Milosevic: "Acceleration"]

[Text] The political position of Slobodan Milosevic at this moment is like a bicycle whose brakes have failed as it rushes downhill. The cyclist is still managing to keep his balance, even to maneuver around obstacles on the road, but he is going faster and faster, and the end of the ride is becoming increasingly certain—a fall!

So, events in these parts, above all those parts which Milosevic considers his "sphere of interest," are happening so rapidly that the leader is losing control of them more and more. Forced, therefore, to make moves which ultimately signify the end for him and his policy. This is clear as day from two examples.

The downing of the helicopter of the European Community mission, even though the offenders were in the ranks of the Army, is an event with profound political consequences. The reactions in the world unanimously judge this to be an attempt of those forces in the regions of the former Yugoslavia which want to impose their political options by force, preventing further internationalization of the crisis and bringing things back to the level of a military confrontation between Croats and Serbs. It is in that light that one can interpret both General Kadijevic's resignation and Gen. Jurjevic's arrest, although they were far from "doves" in the top Army leadership. Their removal and the somewhat earlier removal of Gen. Spirovski, the Macedonian, from the position of commander of the 3d Army District, creates room for bringing into the most salient positions in the Army those people who are prepared to go to the end even in the formal transformation of the Yugoslav Army into a

Serbian army. Gen. Blagoje Adzic spoke about that new role and conception of the Army and about its new organization on 22 December of last year. Now, and it is no accident, he is replacing the departing Kadijevic. But the emphasis that this is a temporary replacement, in keeping with the Law on National Defense, until a new minister of war is appointed may mean among other things that Adzic is only a transitional solution until a still firmer general is found with a markedly Serbian pedigree who would take over leadership of an army which has been transformed from a Yugoslav army into a Serbian army. There are several candidates, but Marko Negovanovic and Zivot Avramovic are mentioned most frequently.

But the world puts the downing of the helicopter on Milosevic's conscience, because this is a consequence of the policy of which he is the main author, especially in unanimous judgments.

Aware that he cannot prevent international recognition of the former Yugoslav republics, announced for 15 January, which at one time he rejected as altogether unacceptable to the Serbian option, Milosevic is attempting to speed up events on the political plane. This can explain the proclamation of the so-called Serbian republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, which occurred on Wednesday, not on 14 January, as had been originally announced. This is the political card which Milosevic was forced to play by the development of events and with which he intends to enter into the political negotiations which he certainly will not be able to avoid.

Facing the unanimous condemnation of the world because of the downing of the helicopter of the EC observer mission, Milosevic, overtaken by events once again, is making a new move—he is rejecting Milan Babic. In an open letter which he has sent to the self-styled leader of the Serbs in the "krajina," Milosevic accuses him, and this is the ultimate in political cynicism, of advocating the war and sufferings of the Serbian people in his rejection of the arrival of the blue helmets to the crisis areas, instead of adopting a peaceful solution. Consistent with the formula that has been tried several times, Milosevic denies Babic the right to speak in the name of the Serbs from the so-called krajina, in which he is altogether right, but at the same time he himself assumes the right to speak in the name of all the Serbs on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The public and peremptory showdown with Milan Babic is Milosevic's attempt to nevertheless show himself to the world to be a peacemaker and thus win at least minimal support of the world for his political options. But events in the last few years caution that we should not reject the possibility that Milosevic is working both sides of the street and that the conflict with Babic, so loudly publicized, is only an attempt to deceive and to create room for new military escapades that would be more firmly under Milosevic's control. Nevertheless, the flow of political and therefore also of historical events is speeding up, but not to the advantage of Milosevic and his projects, but to the advantage of authentic democracy. It perhaps seems to the Serbian leader that he is in control of events, but the rate of change is such that in the very near future events will completely escape his control, and that means that the crisis will be resolved by negotiations at the green baize table, and that the bill for war and everything it has inflicted on the people in these regions will be paid for by Milosevic and his followers.

Interrepublic

Paper Cited on Status of Slovenian-Croatian Ties

LD2201142992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1350 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 22 (TANJUG)—The dispute between the breakaway Yugoslav Republics of Slovenia and Croatia is far more serious than many people could ever have imagined, the Belgrade daily BORBA writes today.

This became especially obvious during Italian President Francesco Cossiga's visit to the two republics. Cossiga first visited Zagreb before going to Ljubljana, which was received in Slovenia as an affront, BORBA writes. Besides, Slovenia asked Cossiga to exercize his influence on Croatia to help resolve the question of the border along the River Dragonja. Slovenia wants this border shifted several kilometres south, at the expense of Croatia, in order to gain an outlet to the open sea. However, Cossiga said that Italy had no intention of changing borders drawn after the second world war, and that the border along the River Dragonja was a matter for Slovenia and Croatia themselves to resolve.

According to the paper, Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonko Separovic told the Cologne radio Deutche Welle that Croatia is not prepared to simply give away several kilometres of its territory to Slovenia, which claims that several kilometres south of the River Dragonja were a part of its own territory at the time of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Croatia over a month ago asked in return for a land corridor through Slovenia to Italy, but Slovenia has obviously turned down that demand, BORBA writes.

The daily quotes Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel as saying two days ago at the republican government's meeting with the representatives of Slovenia's municipalities that the republic's economy is suffering the most because of such disputes.

Rupel also said that "this is precisely why Slovenia is promoting its relations with Serbia, as our two economies complement each other far better," BORBA writes.

The European Community recognized Slovenia and Croatia as independent states on January 15 this year, in spite of the judgment by the arbitration committee of the Conference on Yugoslavia that only Slovenia and Macedonia meet the conditions for international recognition.

Four Yugoslav republics had applied to the EC for international recognition—Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia—while the other two, Serbia and Montenegro, pointed out that they obtained their statehoods back at the 1878 Berlin Congress.

According to the arbitration committee, Croatia does not meet the conditions for international recognition because of the unsolved status of the Serbian people in Croatia, and neither Bosnia-Hercegovina because the three constitutive nations in the republic have not reached a concensus on its future.

The Croats and Moslems in Bosnia-Hercegovina had applied for international recognition without the consent of the Serbs, who want to remain in Yugoslavia.

Slovenia

Cossiga Seeks 'Peaceful Presence' in Adriatic

LD1901152592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1742 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Piran, Jan 18 (TANJUG)—Italian President Francesco Cossiga today told reporters in the Slovenian coastal town of Piran that his country urged "a peaceful presence" in the Adriatic, "through diplomatic, political and economic relations".

Cossiga ended a two-day official visit to the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia with a meeting with representatives of the Italian minority in Piran and his second meeting with Slovenian President Milan Kucan.

Cossiga was the first foreign statesman to visit Slovenia and the other Yugoslav breakaway Republic of Croatia, after they gained international recognition on January 15. He told reporters that he visited the two Republics to personally close the chapter of recognition of their independence and sovereignty.

Cossiga acknowledged that problems inherited from the past existed on both sides of the border and added that "the past should not cast a shadow on the future".

Government Discusses Recognition, Economic Issues

LD2201143792 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2100 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] A meeting of the representatives of the Slovenian Government and the presidents of the executive councils of the municipal assemblies was held in Ljubljana today. The subjects of the talks were topical economic and financial questions, the importance of international recognition for our country, and the government's activities.

Prime Minister Lojze Peterle especially pointed out the difficult situation in which Slovenia obtained international recognition. Foreign Minister Dr. Dimitrij Rupel said that 38 countries had recognized Slovenia thus far and that it is a matter of time before the United States recognizes it as well.

According to Finance Minister Dusan Sisok, the Slovenian Government has already sent a letter to the European Bank requesting a loan of 200 million ECU's [European Currency Units]. Slovenia will also receive 700 million German marks from the Paris and Bern Club. With the help of the loans and new investments, it will be possible gradually to reduce unemployment and check the negative trends in the economy.

Deputy Prime Minister Andrej Ocvirk spoke about the need for social stability and a social pact. He pointed out that in our country, too, it will not be possible to make unrealistic demands.

Austria To Assume Control of Slovene Airspace

AU2101154892 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Austria will assume control of Slovene airspace, allowing the Slovene airline Adria Airways to resume service. This was stated by Gerhardt Stadler, head of the Austrian Civil Aviation Administration, in Vienna today. He said that an agreement in this regard between Austria and Slovenia will probably be signed in Vienna next week. Slovene airspace will be controlled from the radar station in Carinthia. Austrian flight controllers will direct civilian aircraft to within 20 km from the Ljubljana airport, at which point the Ljubljana control tower will take over. Adria Airways resumed service on 16 January from the Klagenfurt airport.

DELO on Feasibility of April Election Deadline

92BA0382A Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 7 Jan 92 p 2

[Article by Majda Vukelic: "Even Early Elections Will Not Be Able to Overtake Time"—first paragraph is DELO introduction]

[Text] The legislative and legal problems that will have to be solved before scheduling elections; if we wanted to vote in April, the elections should already have been scheduled.

Ljubljana, 6 Jan—The recent decision by the former Demos coalition on new parliamentary elections, which are supposed to be as early as April, has thoroughly divided Slovene political life. With all of this, the question still arises of whether elections are feasible, from a legal and formal standpoint, in a relatively short time. Before any sort of speculations about this, it should be noted first of all that it has not even been determined yet who will prepare the new electoral legislation.

The legislation in effect now was written by a special Assembly working group for the preparation of electoral legislation, which was headed by Tone Jerovsek, now a judge on the Constitutional Court. As the new writers of

the electoral laws, some people are mentioning the constitutional commission, the legislative-legal commission, and the Ministry for Legislation, or else a special commission is to be appointed this time as well. Proposals that the electoral laws should be prepared within the framework of the Assembly have the most support, but so far the parliament's leadership has not yet expressed a position on this.

Article 2 of the Constitutional Law on Implementing a New Slovene Constitution specifies that the present Assembly should continue its work until the first meeting of the State Assembly. The first elections to the State Assembly and the State Council are supposed to be conduct within a year after the adoption of the law, at the latest (it was passed on 23 December 1991). The laws that regulate the electoral system have to be passed by the chambers with a two-thirds' majority of the votes of all the deputies. If those laws are not passed within the period stated by the Constitutional Law, the provisions of the electoral regulations that are in effect are to be used for this purpose. The first elections for president of the republic are to be held at the same time as the elections to the State Assembly.

Consequently, if we wanted to hold elections under the present system, they should actually have been scheduled already. Specifically, the law on elections to the Assembly provides that at least 90 days have to pass from the day of the scheduling unti the day of the elections. If we counted from today, the elections could be at the beginning of April. Of course, it is possible to shorten that period, but then the question that arises is whether an election campaign and candidacy procedures and all the other ones could be carried out in such a short time.

There is also one more question without a clear answer. The provisions now in effect regarding elections to the Sociopolitical Chamber could be used for the purpose of elections to the State Assembly. The law on determining electoral units would not have to be fundamentally changed, either. We would only have to answer the "technical" question of how to hold the elections of the 88 deputies in the State Assembly (two of them, in fact, are deputies from the Italian and Hungarian ethnic communities) in the 14 electoral units recognized by the present law.

The elections to the State Council, in which social, economic, professional, and local interests will be represented, will be more difficult; they cannot be held under the present regulations. Many people are already warning that anything but indirect elections is out of the question, at least for the elections of some of the representatives to the State Council. Even if the 22 representatives of local interests could be elected directly in the opstinas, that probably does not apply to the representatives of noneconomic activities, employers, employees, farmers, tradesmen, and independent professionals. Admittedly, the new constitution does not require direct elections, but it does talk about the general and equal right to vote. That is "eliminated" with indirect elections.

Obviously, then, we need new electoral laws. In order to ensure a two-thirds' majority of the votes of all the deputies, a high degree of political agreement on them clearly has to be achieved—and above all, on whether we will have a proportional or a majority electoral system, or a combination of both.

Even if the new legislation were already prepared this month or at the beginning of next month, the elections could realistically be held only in the second half of May or at the beginning of June (with the assumed 90-day period from the scheduling to the holding of the elections). For April elections, then, the legislation would already have to have been adopted today, and the elections scheduled. It is also necessary to take into account the fact that with the elections for the president of the republic, and with the possible legalization of a majority system, it will probably be necessary to hold two rounds of elections.

In this regard, the Ministry for Internal Affairs is also pointing out one more problem. According to the constitution, every citizen who has reached 18 years of age has the right to vote (to vote and be elected). Since the period for acquiring Slovene citizenship under simpler conditions only expired on 27 December 1991, the Ministry will need at least another month to settle citizenship matters, because of the extremely large number of applications that it has received, recently in particular.

[Box, p 2]

As provided by the Constitution, the State Assembly has 90 deputies, who are elected in general, equal, direct, and secret voting. Their term of office is four years. The State Council is composed of 40 members (four representatives each of employers and employees, four representatives of farmers, tradesmen, and independent professionals, six representatives of noneconomic activities, and 22 representatives of local interests), and is elected for a period of five years. We will likewise elect the president of the republic in direct, general, and secret elections for a period of five years.

Economy in Maribor Industrial Center 'Stagnated'

LD1901155992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1548 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Maribor, 17 Jan (TANJUG)—Industrial production in Maribor, the largest industrial center in the Republic of Slovenia, fell by 42 percent last year compared with 1986, the first year of the so-called new 5-year, medium-term period. During this period, the number of employed in the Maribor economy fell from 92,000 to 72,000, and presently there are some 10,000 unemployed workers. During this period, the Maribor

economy also stagnated considerably faster than the Slovenian economy as a whole.

According to the director of the Maribor social accountancy service, 120 medium-size enterprises in this town are facing bankruptcy. Large enterprises, however, last year managed to overcome their difficulties with the help of the republican and local government.

Current Data on Republic's Foreign Trade Reported

92BA0369B Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 6 Jan 92 p 3

[Article by (ml): "West Germany the Largest Partner"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 4 Jan—The Republic of Slovenia's Statistics Institute has reported that from last January to October, Slovenia exported $3.939 billion dollars in goods, and during the same period imported $4.024 billion in goods.

The statisticians prepared that account, which for the time being is still just an estimate, while also taking into account the so-called enhancement of goods (for the needs of foreign customers) according to the gross principle.

Almost all the trade is in convertible currency, and we exported the most to the EC states, namely $2.714 billion, and imported $2.596 billion from there. Our largest foreign trade partner by far is the Federal Republic of Germany, which bought $1.398 billion in goods from us, and sold us $1.261 billion in goods. In second place is Italy, to which we exported $677 million in goods, and from which we imported $627 million in goods. France is our third largest foreign trade partner; we sold it $359 million in goods, and bought $405 million worth from it.

We exported almost $330 million in goods to the countries that are members of the EFTA [European Free Trade Association], and imported $512 million in goods from them. Among those countries, Austria, which in general is our fourth largest foreign trade partner, is in first place. During the first 10 months, we sold $232 million in goods to Austria, and imported $349 million in goods.

Croatia

Separovic Assails Serbia-Montenegro 'Aggression'

LD2101223292 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2037 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Warsaw, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Speaking on Polish television tonight, Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic accused Serbia and Montenegro of "aggression" against Croatia.

In the program "Interview of the Week", Separovic said that "Serbia wants to change the borders by the use of force." He also accused Serbs of "bombing towns and civilian targets, hospitals, nurseries, cultural heritage, and especially churches." He stressed that "Dubrovnik was attacked and its beauty destroyed." Dubrovnik "has always been, and will remain, a part of Croatia."

Assessing that the world should "distinguish between the victim and the aggressor," the Croatian foreign minister said that "the aggressors, Serbia and Montenegro, should be punished, should be publicly called aggressors. Their soldiers should be demoralized so that they will return to their countries, and Croatia's borders should be guaranteed, or at least respected. Then we can guarantee that we will respect the rights of minorities."

According to Separovic, "The tragedy of the Croatian nation is that it has been left to the tender mercies of the last communist bastion in Europe—the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Army." To emphasize Serbian dominance in the Army, the Croatian minister said that "there are no Slovenes, but there are a few Bosnians and Hercegovinians" in it. Separovic also believes that "It is possible to establish diplomatic relations with Serbia after the war," but he also set the conditions: "After an absolute ceasefire, pre-borders must be respected and Serbia must pay war reparations."

Tudjman, Bankers Discuss Monetary Matters

LD2101171192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Zagreb, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman visited the Croatian National Bank today, where he met financial experts. His talks were attended by Croatian Finance Minister Jozo Martinovic; Croatian National Bank Governor Ante Cicin-Sain; Deputy Governor Zdravko Rogic; Deputy Governors Dragutin Zaninovic and Dragutin Gecl; and others. [passage omitted]

Croatian National Bank Governor Ante Cicin-Sain briefed President Tudjman on the function of the Croatian National Bank, its importance in securing the stability of money and the establishment of a modern bank system, and the opening of foreign banks in Croatia. He also mentioned the problem of controlling payment operations, transactions with branches of banks from the republics of former Yugoslavia, and so on.

During the talks, the importance of introducing the Croatian dinar was underlined. The talks also focused on Croatia's chances for joining international financial institutions as soon as possible and the introduction of Croatia into the world money market. President Tudjman was particularly interested in the Croatian debt and Croatia's share in the debt of the former federation, the recent change of banknotes, and the plan for printing and introducing into circulation the Croatian crown.

Martic Outlines Reasons for Accepting Vance Plan

LD2101162492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1544 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 21 (TANJUG)—"It was only for the sake of peace, which transcends everything else, that we accepted Vance's plan in toto," Minister of Internal Affairs in the government of the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) Milan Martic has said.

In an interview published today in the Belgrade daily VECERNJE NOVOSTI, Martic said that the peace plan of Cyrus Vance, special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali, had been accepted "with a strong dose of caution not to allow any trickery."

"We have no reason to doubt the work of the United Nations," Martic said, adding that "in all cases so far the U.N. has acted impartially and successfully." The daily says Martic's objections, like those of most Krajina political figures, refer to the positioning of the forces.

The authorities of the RSK maintain that the blue helmets should be deployed along the republic's border with breakaway Croatia, rather than inside Krajina's territory. The republic of Serb Krajina was proclaimed by Serbs inside Croatia's administrative borders. The area's majority Serbs have opted for remaining in Yugoslavia.

RSK President Milan Babic said in an interview to the Belgrade daily BORBA yesterday: "Acceptance of the concept of a deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces according to which the territories of Krajina, eastern and western Slavonia as areas in Croatia would be under the protection of the United Nations we find unacceptable."

"The number of U.N. soldiers coming to Krajina and the manner in which they will carry out their duties does not provide one hundred percent guarantees that Krajina will be protected," Martic said. He pointed to the need for much caution because after its international recognition Croatia would become even more aggressive given the help it would get from outside, notably Germany.

Commenting on those parts of Vance's plan which refer to the withdrawal of the JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) from Krajina, Martic said fears that the people would leave Krajina with the Army were groundless. "The Army is made up of that very people," Martic stressed, adding that Krajina "was not defended by a force which came out of nowhere."

He said it would be logical for the parliament of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia to recognize the RSK, as "the people of Krajina have at two referendums voted in favour of remaining in Yugoslavia."

"It would also be realistic for Croatia to recognize the RSK, and we would then also recognize Croatia, thus establishing normal neighbourly relations," Martic said.

No 'Major' Cease-Fire Violations 21 Jan

LD2101213592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2025 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, January 21 (TANJUG)—There were no major ceasefire violations on the fronts in Croatia today, except in Baranja where there was a half-hour clash between Territorial Defence units and Croatian paramilitary formations.

The Baranja Territorial Defence headquarters told TANJUG's reporter that one member of the Territorial Defence was killed and one was wounded in an attack by the Ustasha (Croatian fascists) near the vilage of Bilje (some 10 km from Osijek). Fire was returned and the attackers had three dead and several wounded, as it was said.

Croatian radio, which is subject to the Croatian president's decree on censorship, said that "it was quiet in Osijek today," without mentioning the clash around Bilje.

Lists of ceasefire violations and the warring sides' replies to ceasefire violations noted earlier were exchanged at a meeting of the ceasefire monitoring commission on the front between the Danube, Vuka and Sava rivers. The meeting was held in the presence of European Community monitors.

Military sources say there were no serious ceasefire violations on the front around Dubrovnik and Hercegovina. This was also confirmed by representatives of the Croatian authorities after today's two-hour talks with Army officials in Cavtat, near Dubrovnik.

There were no major ceasefire violations in the region of Banija in the past few days and today, as military sources say.

The Croatian forces staff said there were no operations in the region of western Slavonija today.

TANJUG's reporter learned from well-informed sources that representatives of the Yugoslav Army Banja Luka Corps and the illegal Croatian armed formations today discussed exchanges of prisoners in the presence of European Community monitors. The sources said that the talks will continue tomorrow. An exchange of 24 Yugoslav Army members for seven members of the Croatian National Guard took place in Bosanki Samac (Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina) yesterday, as it was announced today.

Zagreb Radio Announces Romanian Recognition

LD2201112592 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 1305 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic received from the Romanian General Consul, (?Vasil Lek), the Romanian Government's decision to recognize Croatia. Separovic told his guest that this act wipes away

all prior disagreements and demonstrates Romania's political objectivity—a good basis for cooperation between the two countries.

Serbia

Government Initiative on Interrepublic Negotiations

LD2101192592 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1809 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Considering that the development of international events increasingly emphasizes the importance of the continuity of Yugoslavia as a state, the Serbian Government today set in motion an initiative for further negotiations between the nations and republics to which Yugoslavia represents a vital and common interest.

The text of the initiative is as follows:

1. The Government of the Republic of Serbia notes that the latest development of international events has stressed even more the importance of Yugoslavia's continuity for the peoples and republics to which Yugoslavia is of vital and common interest. In this context, the Government of the Republic of Serbia welcomes the statement last week by the Government of Montenegro referring to the continuity of Yugoslavia.

2. Expressing its conviction that the interest of Macedonia and of Bosnia-Hercegovina is not in separating from and in severing their links with Yugoslavia, and indicating a high level of ties and interests between Bosnia-Hercegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has set in motion an initiative whereby the most important political and economic issues should be discussed jointly at the level of these republics' prime ministers.

3. Proceeding from the separation of Croatia from Yugoslavia and from the the fact that there exist many controversial problems stemming from life together so far in the same country, and also those that stem from Croatia separating from Yugoslavia, the Government of the Republic of Serbia believes that with the arrival of the UN peacekeeping forces negotiations should begin between the organs of Yugoslavia and of the Republic of Croatia so that, in so doing, the existing problems can be identified and resolved by virtue of a lasting solution of controversial issues.

4. In view of the fact that the peoples and the republics who will continue their life together have no border or other controversial problems with the Republic of Slovenia, the Government of the Republic of Serbia believes that work should start between Yugoslavia and Slovenia on the division of the balance sheet [deobna bilansa], says the Government of the Republic of Serbia in its initiative document.

Federal Ban on Traffic With Germany Rejected

AU2101203092 Belgrade RTV Sat TV in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] As of today, buses and trucks with German license plates cannot enter our country without a special permit. The ban also applies to charter flights from Germany to Yugoslavia. This decision was made by our federal government a month ago, as a reaction to Germany's unilateral decision to suspend almost all traffic agreements with Yugoslavia. The decision was temporarily frozen, in order to give the German Government 30 days to reexamine its decision. Germany has not changed its stand.

In conformity with the Serbian Government's decision, the Serbian Ministry for Traffic and Communications informed the Federal Committee for Traffic and Communications that, in all respects and until further notice, Serbia will adhere to the agreement Yugoslavia signed with Germany concerning traffic between the two countries.

This means that the federal government's decision about the reciprocal suspension of traffic with Germany will not be implemented on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. This was stated this evening by Zarko Katic, Serbian minister for traffic and communications.

AFP Reports JNA 'Mobilized Reservists'

AU2101150892 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Report by Nicholas Miletitch]

[Excerpt] Belgrade, Jan 21 (AFP)—The Yugoslav Army mobilized reservists in Belgrade over the weekend as ceasefire violations continued in the civil war in Croatia, the newspaper BORBA reported here Tuesday. It did not say how many troops were involved. Military officials refused to confirm or deny the report.

The new mobilization shows federal forces remaining on their guard despite the ceasefire signed January 2 and in effect since January 3.

The ceasefire bans new troops taking position but does not forbid the calling up of reservists. [passage omitted]

Party Urges Albanians Not To Leave Kosovo

LD1701233192 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatia 1300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The Peasant Party of Kosovo, the second largest party after the Democratic Alliance, most strongly condemned police terror in the village of Donje Prekaze near Srbica and other places in Kosovo. In today's communique, the party stresses that repression by the Serbian regime against innocent Albanians intensified at the beginning of this year. At the same time, the party expressed concern over the emigration of a large number

of Albanians from Kosovo to Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, and other countries. The Peasant Party is calling on Albanians—despite the repression—not to leave Kosovo, at the same time supporting the referendum of Albanians in Macedonia for political and territorial autonomy in Macedonia, describing it as a humane and civilized action.

Daily: Albanians Training To Act Against Serbia

LD2101152892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1411 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 21 (TANJUG)—Around 2,000 ethnic Albanians from the province of Kosovo and Metohija are being trained in Albania for armed actions against the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, the Belgrade daily POLITIKA EKSPRES writes today.

Citing this as "reliable information," the daily says that 2,000 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija arrived in the Albanian port of Durres via Croatia and Italy, and that they are being trained by 500 German military and police instructors "to act as terrorists."

Kosovo and Metohija (Kosmet), an autonomous province in Serbia, is predominantly populated by ethnic Albanians, whose political leaders are trying to form "the Republic of Kosovo," break it off from Serbia and Yugoslavia and annex it to Albania.

POLITIKA EKSPRES goes on to say that apart from those in Kosmet and the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, another 600 or so Albanian citizens, many of whom are criminals, are being trained abroad for the war against Serbia. The daily claims that they are receiving training in terrorism and sabotage in special military camps in Hungary and Austria.

Also a number of Albanians who are currently in Bulgarian reception centres for foreigners will soon be sent to military camps in Hungary, Austria, and Germany. According to some sources, some Albanians are also being trained in Croatia, near the town of Djakovo, POLITIKA EXPRESS writes.

Demands for Albanian Lessons in Kosovo Continue

AU2101181492 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Milivoje Mihajlovic report from Pristina]

[Text] Ethnic Albanian students and teachers in elementary and secondary schools tried again today to enter schools in Kosovo and Metohija. It was explained to them again that lessons in Albanian can be held, but only in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Serbia. Except for Djakovica, where students and teachers agreed to this, discussion was refused. Provincial educational authorities claim that there have been no serious infringements today.

Speaking at a news conference, Miodrag Djuricic, provincial secretary for education, said that these demands by Albanian separatists will not be yielded to. One cannot allow parallel education to be organized in the province, or anything else that would call into question Serbian jurisdiction over this territory, Djuricic said. He said that with these new disturbances, Albanian separatists are trying again to internationalize the Kosovo problem. Djuricic believes that this is another Kosovo performance directed by separatists that is supposed to climax on 1 February, the date university lectures are supposed to begin.

This is confirmed by a letter received today by Radivoje Papovic, rector of the University of Pristina. The letter was sent by Ejub (?Satovci), self-appointed rector of this university. He demands that Serbs leave all university buildings, from the rectorate to student dormitories, so that, as is said in the letter, lectures in Albanian can be held.

Similar letters have been received by all deans of Pristina faculties, and were sent by Albanians whom the educational authorities of the so-called Republic of Kosovo had appointed deans of the Pristina faculties.

The university leadership holds that this is another provocation by Albanian separatists. We have learned unofficially that security organs are also going to deal with this correspondence.

University Rector Imprisoned

AU2101135892 Tirana ATA in English 1022 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tirana, January 21 (ATA)—The Pristina Communal Court of Contravention sentenced on January 18 to 60 days imprisonment the Rector of Kosovo University Dr. Ejup Statovci and immediately jailed him. As reported the Serb police searched his house in Pristina where they got hold of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, some books and 209 pictures showing feuds conciliation.

The court declared guilty the rector for the letter he sent to the illegitimate rector imposed on this university Rudivoje Papovic, through which he demanded to empty the premises of Kosovo University for the Albanian students. This absurd accusation and the illegal sentence of the legitimate rector of Kosovo University are another testimony to the savage repressive anti-Albanian policy of Belgrade in Kosovo.

BORBA Discusses Future of Serbian Guard

AU2101213592 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Jan 92 p 10

[G. Katic report: "Guardists Out of Operation"]

[Text] Belgrade—The Serbian Guard has finished its business at the front and is now withdrawing from the battlefields in Croatia. The Guard will stop operating,

but the guardsmen will continue their military activities and, if "the situation becomes complicated," they will be ready at any time to put themselves at the disposal of the threatened Serbian people.

This was the general stand taken at the session held the day before yesterday by the initiative committee for the formation of the headquarters of the Serbian Guard for Serbia. We learned this from Zoran Djordjevic, the committee's president.

This decision was made for several reasons, but the most important was respect for the efforts of the "blue helmets" to secure peace in this area. Another reason is the unresolved status of the Serbian Guard.

"The guardsmen do not want to die without training, preparation, and protection, like 'cannon fodder' and still with the ideological symbols of the Yugoslav People's Army." This was also told to us by Djordjevic, who is a member of the Serbian Guard from the headquarters of the "Nis Iron Regiment."

The Guard has so far sent more than 1,500 people to the battlefield. According to incomplete data, 20 fighters have died and around 40 have been wounded. New fighters will not be sent to the front, and the Guard's inspection unit, led by Simo Dubajic, is already in the vicinity of Gospic with the task of establishing the status and condition of the units that are currently engaged on this front and the dates for their replacement.

The Serbian Guard does not have a commander at present, but a new commander and leadership will be chosen soon. The leadership will be made up of professional soldiers, experts, and guardsmen who have already proven themselves at the front.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Interior Ministry Halts Mobilization Assistance

LD2201110492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1032 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Sarajevo, 19 Jan (TANJUG)—The Bosnia-Hercegovina Ministry for Internal Affairs has issued the following statement in connection with an increasing number of cases where, at the request of military authorities, members of the ministry have been handing in call-up papers and escorting reservists without proper authorization:

"In line with decisions of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency and Government, according to which reservists are not duty-bound to heed illegal mobilization call-up papers, the Ministry for Internal Affairs is distancing itself from activities of individual police stations which are undertaking measures aimed at handing in call-up papers and escorting reservists.

Since the mentioned activities are not within the competence of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Ministry for Internal Affairs, disciplinary and other measures under the law on internal affairs will be undertaken against all members of the Ministry for Internal Affairs who undertake these measures without proper authority," the statement concludes.

Banja Luka Corps Seek Referendum Question Change

LD2101235192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1041 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Banja Luka, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—Members of the Banja Luka Corps are demanding that Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic reformulate the question to be asked at a possible referendum on the future of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

A statement issued this morning by the press service of the Banja Luka Corps Command, stresses that "soldiers and officers of the Banja Luka Corps demand that since he is already determined to hold a referendum, Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic should ask the following question: Are you in favor of a sovereign Bosnia-Hercegovina within a new Yugoslavia?"

A firm conclusion as to whether soldiers and officers favor or oppose a referendum in principle and whether they hold that nations or citizens should vote in it cannot be deduced from this morning's statement by the Banja Luka Corps Command. Members of the Banja Luka Corps, the statement stresses, thinks that the referendum question as formulated by Alija Izetbegovic implies a positive answer which prejudges the outcome of the referendum. The statement concludes that the question thus formulated is "a pure and simple deception of the people."

Kljuic Views Referendum, Relations With Croatia

LD2101142992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1108 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Sarajevo, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—On the basis of talks with the commander of the Sarajevo Army area and with Croatian Prime Minister Franjo Greguric, I can estimate that traffic and economic relations between Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia will return to normal in the next seven days, stated Stjepan Kljuic, chairman of the Croatian Democratic Community of Bosnia-Hercegovina and member of the republican Presidency, at a news conference today.

Regarding the forthcoming citizens' referendum on sovereignty, Kljuic expressed his conviction that a majority of the citizens of this republic will vote for independence. The Croatian people will never stay in rump Yugoslavia, he stressed. If the latter happens, Kljuic added, I am ready to step down immediately from the political scene.

Kljujic holds that opposition to the referendum on sovereignty represents shrinking from the voice of your own people and an assessment of one year's work of the leading parties.

Regarding the talks being held between representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party and the Croatian Democratic Community of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Kljujic called them normal and usual, although he stressed there will be no peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina without tripartite agreements, referring to the three nations in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The chairman of the Croatian Democratic Community of Bosnia-Hercegovina said that "in any law governed state Mirko Jovic would be arrested after his statements regarding Croatia."

Says Independent Bosnia 'Acceptable'

AU2101163492 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Report on news conference by Stjepan Klujic, leader of the Croatian Democratic Community, by Ljubomir Nikokic; in Sarajevo on 21 January—recorded]

[Text] We find a sovereign and independent Bosnia-Hercegovina more acceptable than a rump Yugoslavia in which this republic would have a colonial position, Stjepan Kljujic said, adding that the Bosnia-Hercegovina Croats will demonstrate this orientation at a referendum.

Regarding yesterday's talks between the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency and the command of the Second Army District, Kljujic said that the army is being asked to confirm its loyalty and to recognize the civilian authorities in the republic. We are against the scheduled army maneuvers in western Hercegovina because the army is not wanted there, Kljujic stressed.

Discussing the possibility of this part of Bosnia-Hercegovina acceding to Croatia, Kljujic thinks that the will of this people should be respected and if the people express this will, Kljujic and the Croatian Democratic Community [HDZ] will have nothing against it.

The HDZ headquarters today announced the formation of (?Vrbosna), yet another political organization of the Croatian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Talks with representatives of the Serbian people, Kljujic said, are welcome, but he stressed that there can be no resolution of the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis without the participation of Muslims. The internal transformation of this republic can be discussed, but this should be sanctioned by the constitution. The Swiss Constitution is an acceptable solution for us, Kljujic said.

Commenting on statements made yesterday by Mirko Jovic, leader of the Serbian National Renewal, Kljujic said: If there were democracy in Serbia today, he would already be in prison.

He claimed that hyperinflation has been caused in Bosnia-Hercegovina by the printing of money in Topcider [the federal mint] and the great presence of the army. Kljujic advocates the urgent introduction of a Bosnia-Hercegovina currency. He is convinced that the Croatian dinar will soon become legal tender in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In reply to a question of mine on his view of the HOS [Croatian Defense Force] organizing in western Hercegovina, Kljujic said that this is a question of an advertisement for this movement which has no serious support among the Croatian people.

Serbian Democrats Suggest Referendum Question

AU2101193092 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The Socialist Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina believes that the republican assembly should call a referendum in order for the citizens to express their real political wishes. This was stated by Nijaz Durakovic, president of the Socialist Democratic Party, at the party's regular news conference today. He also said that the idea of a referendum based on the citizen as a member of a nation could be politically dangerous and fatal because it could lead to further ethnic division.

The Socialist Democratic Party proposes that the referendum question have the following wording: Do you favor a sovereign and indivisible Bosnia-Hercegovina which could join the new Yugoslav community with other republics on an equal basis? During the news conference it was also said that the referendum ought to be held under international supervision.

Hercegovina Muslims Protest Political Exclusion

AU2001093992 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] In connection with yesterday's agreement of the deputies of the Serbian Democratic Party [SDS] for Hercegovina, which demanded the establishment of borders of the Serbian Autonomous Region [SAO] Hercegovina, the communal committee of the Party of Democratic Action in Gacko issued a statement in which it is stated:

The agreement best illustrates the politics of the SDS, as the Muslims in the so-called SAO of Hercegovina are completely excluded from political life and from decision making. In this town, Muslims are exposed to violence, threats, and maltreatment by the reservists. At the same time, the statement claims, the civilian authorities do not take the necessary measures to protect the citizens of Muslim nationality.

Alliance Leader Warns Against Coalition 'Discord'

LD1901142292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2000 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Sarajevo, Jan 17 (TANJUG)—Nenad Kecmanovic, leader of the Alliance of Reformist Forces of Yugoslavia in Bosnia-Hercegovina, said today that this ethnically-mixed Yugoslav Republic "can only survive as a state of consensus and compromise of the peoples who live in it".

A discord among the three-party coalition which rules Bosnia-Hercegovina has led to de facto lawlessness in the republic and this is why the European Community refused to recognize it as an independent state, Kecmanovic told reporters.

The coalition consists of the Democratic Action Party, which rallies Moslems, the Serbian Democratic Party and the Croatian Democratic Union.

Kecmanovic stressed that "any two-member coalition at the expense of a third party" would result in the disintegration of the Republic.

In mid-December, Bosnia-Hercegovina sought recognition from the European Community together with three other Yugoslav Republics.

The republican parliament on October 15 endorsed a document on a sovereign Bosnia-Hercegovina without consent of the Serbian deputies.

Serb Autonomous Region Seeks To Define Borders

LD2201083192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Mostar, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—The Serbian Autonomous Region of Hercegovina must define its political and territorial status, which presupposes a clear definition of borders, as soon as possible. Without clear borders, the Serbian national policy cannot be achieved.

According to a statement by the Serbian Democratic Party for Bosnia-Hercegovina issued today, Serbian deputies from the Serbian Autonomous Region of Hercegovina demanded this yesterday at a session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly held in the town of Gacko.

It was noted that the Serbian nation of Hercegovina still does not have clearly defined political goals and does not know where the borders of the territory of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Hercegovina are.

The statement concludes that at yesterday's session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly, Serbian deputies from Hercegovina criticized military bodies for not filing charges against all people from Hercegovina who fail to heed call-up papers.

Montenegro

Assembly Debates, Endorses Law on Referendum

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[Text] Titograd, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—The Montenegrin Assembly has today endorsed by a majority vote a law on a referendum in the spring, at which citizens of the republic will express their will on whether Montenegro, as a sovereign state, will remain within a common state with those Yugoslav republics that also wish so.

Whether the specific referendum question will be worded in the way proposed by the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists will be known when a precise decision on the referendum has been adopted. This evening the Assembly is expected to draw up a draft of this decision, on which Vice Prime Minister Zoran Zizic submitted an introductory report.

Zizic said that the proposed referendum question, "Are you in favor of Montenegro, as a sovereign republic, remaining within a common state, completely equal with other Yugoslav republics that also wish to do so?" is completely satisfactory according to all referendum criteria.

According to Zizic, it would not be possible to vote for Montenegrin sovereignty, because, as he said, this republic has been sovereign since the Berlin Congress. Montenegro vested its sovereignty neither in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, nor in post-war Yugoslavia. Zizic also holds that sovereignty is not an issue of expressing somebody's will, nor is it a question of somebody's declaration. It is a historically acquired state of facts and, therefore, voting for it would be pointless.

Opposition Reported

AU2101200492 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Dino Ramovic report from Titograd]

[Text] Only the citizens of Montenegro residing here will be allowed to vote in the forthcoming referendum on the status of Republic. The Assembly also rejected by majority vote today an amendment that would require a two-thirds majority to validate the decision rather than a majority vote.

[Begin Ramovic recording] As expected, the debate on the referendum in the Montenegrin parliament inflamed partisan passions, which will no doubt affect those who have been following the session on radio or television. None of the opposition parties support the views of the ruling party.

The People's Party believes that the referendum is unnecessary. It thinks that a new Federal Assembly and the accompanying agencies should be elected as soon as

possible. In the view of the party, the referendum would divide the Montenegrin people. The party is afraid that the referendum could draw the people into a civil war.

The reformists and the democratic coalition wondered about the method of deciding on whom to live with, and how, when it is still not known that people have opted for a new state and the location of its borders. The conditions offered by Montenegro on 18 January were denied by the Serbian leadership, which is already working on a new constitution for the federal state.

Some deputies demanded that the Montenegrin leadership openly say who is exerting pressure on it, explain the nature of a sudden recent visit by Dr. Borisav Jovic, and state how strong Army pressure is. The debate will last a long time. In fact, it has just begun.

The deputies have adopted the bill on the referendum. [end recording]

Bulatovic Denies Outside Pressure

LD2201105792 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0256 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Titograd, 22 Jan (TANJUG)—Momir Bulatovic, president of the Montenegrin Presidency, said during an Assembly session late last night that there is no need to declare the sovereignty of Montenegro because the republic already enjoys this. Explaining the essence of the coming referendum, Bulatovic says that the question being asked is not whether Montenegro can exist on its own, but whether it wants to and whether this is in the republic's interests.

Bulatovic denies as incorrect the claims that Montenegro and its leadership are subject to pressures from some external factors, some centers of power, and influential politicians. He stresses that Montenegrin authorities make decisions independently and that no one ever comes to Montenegro to talk from a position of power. The Montenegrin leadership would never accept such an attitude. Bulatovic's denial is in response to accusations by a number of deputies that Dr. Borisav Jovic, a member of the Yugoslav Presidency, recently talked to the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists from a position of power.

During the debate at the Assembly session, Milo Djukanovic, president of the republic's government, rejected as unacceptable claims that Montenegro has no right to equality in any future state community of Yugoslav republics because of its alleged economic dependence.

Montenegro is one of the two states in this area with the greatest stature both in the political and statehood sense, Djukanovic stressed. He went on to reject claims about the alleged obsequiousness of the current leadership in Montenegro. According to Djukanovic, the purpose of the coming referendum in Montenegro is to test the mood of its citizens and find out if they are ready to vote in favor of Montenegro establishing slightly closer links with others who so wish in Yugoslavia.

Kostic Vows to 'Fight for Yugoslavia'

LD2101224492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2159 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Titograd, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—The scenario of breaking Yugoslavia apart is not over yet, Vice President of the SFRY Presidency Dr. Branko Kostic said tonight, during a debate at the session of the Montenegrin Assembly. Observing that this scenario was not created in Ljubljana or in Zagreb, Kostic noted that this scenario would take us so far that, on the territory of Yugoslavia, we would have six, perhaps even 10, little states that would thus become the prey of others.

Replying in this context to the criticism addressed to his political role, Dr. Branko Kostic said that he would fight for Yugoslavia, as big as it can be, not because of "Greater Serbia," but because of "Greater Montenegro." According to Kostic, an independent and sovereign Montenegro would essentially mean the realization of "Greater Albania," it means the secession of Sandjak, tomorrow or in future; it also means the realization of the Greater Serbian aspirations to Montenegro, Kostic noted.

The debate at tonight's session of the Montenegrin Assembly could last until dawn, at least judging by the number of deputies who want to participate in the debate on the referendum, which has been accepted in principle. Now it remains to specify the exact wording of the issue.

Samardzic: Fears 'Unjustified'

LD2201123492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2355 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Titograd, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Montenegro could play the role of Piedmont in the creation of a third Yugoslavia. We will do everything we can to make a contribution to this, said Foreign Minister Nikola Samardzic during a debate in the republican parliament tonight.

Samardzic stressed that the impending referendum on Montenegro's state status could be acceptable to others who want a new common state. He stressed that a fear of Montenegrin sovereignty is unjustified and exaggerated. According to him, Montenegrin sovereignty does not harm Serbian interests. On the contrary, stressed Samardic, in a new Yugoslav integration Montenegro can not and will not accept less sovereignty than the degree of sovereignty it had in the Yugoslav Federation.

Government Endorses Serbian Initiative

LD2101192992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1901 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Titograd, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—The Montenegrin government has endorsed the Serbian government initiative that these two republics, together with Macedonia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, should consider the issues

relating to the continuity of Yugoslavia. An announcement concerning this runs as follows:

"At its session today, the government of the Republic of Montenegro discussed the initiative of the government of the Republic of Serbia that the most important economic and political issues relating to the continuity of Yugoslavia should be jointly discussed at the level of the prime ministers of the republics of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

"In view of the high level of reciprocal ties between these republics, and believing that it is not in their interest for these ties to be severed, the government of the Republic of Montenegro endorses this initiative and proposes to be the host of this meeting," stresses the statement forwarded to TANJUG late tonight.

Macedonia

Assembly Recalls Delegates From Federal Assembly

AU2101211492 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Branka Nanevska report from Skopje]

[Text] Today's session of the Macedonian Assembly was supposed to be an ordinary session. The agenda included the following points: the budget, several systemic laws on taxes, road funding and construction, and the founding of a Macedonian news agency. As has been happening here for some time, however, something is always proposed at the last minute, which is then followed by a series of meetings by working groups, the government, harmonization with party positions, and endless recesses.

Today's session has been postponed. The main reason was the deputies' wish that the positions of the EC and the Arbitration Commission of the conference on the future of Yugoslavia be incorporated in the constitutional law. The coordination working group, consisting of the representatives of all parties in the parliament, proposed that Articles 11 and 12 be erased from this document, that is to say, that all representatives of this republic be withdrawn from the SFRY Assembly and from the missions of the former common state, which unfortunately no longer exist. They were supposed to remain in these bodies until the settlement of the Yugoslav political crisis at the round table with the help of the European Twelve.

The deputies expressed the view that further work of the Macedonian deputies in whatever is left of the federation is senseless, since Slovenia and Croatia have been recognized as independent states by the decision of the EC, which renders Yugoslavia nonexistent. This work would be senseless, particularly in view of the fact that the process of recognizing this republic has also started. The proposal was unanimously adopted and sent to the working bodies of the Assembly.

When a positive answer arrived, the deputies of the VMRO [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization] demanded for principled reasons, as they said, that Article 14 also be erased from the constitutional law, that is to say, that all Macedonians be withdrawn from the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and diplomatic-consular offices around the world. Since there were differing views on this, a recess was held, and the government was asked to express its view on the matter.

What is completely unclear is why the government decided at one of its two sessions today to withdraw about 100 Macedonian representatives from the Yugoslav diplomatic corps but recommended that the constitutional commission not change the article of the constitutional law that regulates this matter.

For this reason, the members of the constitutional commission, at their third consecutive session today, demanded that the government provide a written explanation for this move. They asked the government to provide an answer by 0900 tomorrow. If nothing unexpected happens, the Assembly session should begin about 1000.

Let us say, in conclusion, that the majority of deputies, who spent all day today in the Assembly cafe, like the journalists, complained to assembly President Stojan Andov about this kind of work. They demanded that Assembly sessions be prepared better as valuable time and money—which someone will have to pay and we know who—are wasted.

General Discusses Future of Territorial Defense

AU2101220692 Skopje Radio Macedonia Network in Macedonian 2100 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The Territorial Defense of Macedonia is prepared in the organizational, military, expert, and moral sense to accept the role of the armed forces of the Republic of Macedonia, the role envisaged for it by the constitutional law.

This was stated by Lieutenant General Tomislav Trajcevski, commander of the Territorial Defense of the Republic. Speaking at a meeting today with the leadership of the association of reserve military officers of Macedonia, Trajcevski stressed the role of the reserve military officer corps. Concerning the Territorial Defense, he said that it will provide an active and expert contribution to the creation of the future defense system of sovereign Macedonia.

The role of this social organization was particularly stressed at this meeting. This organization represents an important source of cadres for the defense system of the Republic of Macedonia.

Albanian Foreign Minister Bocka Visits Republic

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[Text] Ilir Bocka, minister for foreign affairs of Albania, has arrived in Skopje on a two-day working visit to the Republic of Macedonia at the invitation of Denko Maleski, minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Macedonia. The two ministers had talks on issues of mutual interest for the neighboring countries and exchanged views on the widespread processes and tendencies in the region.

Minister Maleski pointed out the willingness of the Republic of Macedonia to establish comprehensive and all-encompassing relations between the two neighboring countries in the Balkans. Minister Maleski stressed that such development of relations will be a contribution to efforts for constructing a zone of stability in the Balkans in which states would respect the principles of peace, cooperation, and mutual interest.

The guest was briefed on the views and stands of the republic regarding the conference on Europe, the conclusions of the Arbitration Commission, and its incipient process for international recognition of the republic. The stand was also expressed by our side that respect for the rights of minorities and the establishment of good interethnic relations were a significant prerequisite for peace and prosperity in the region. Some results that have been achieved in economic cooperation in the transport sphere were positively assessed.

For his part, Ilir Bocka, Albanian foreign minister, stressed his country's readiness to continue the road of democratic changes. In this respect, he said that Albania will respect the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter, and the Declaration for Human Rights. The minister stressed that the Republic of Albania highly respects the principle of the self-determination of peoples and the inviolability of borders. He was particularly interested in the position and rights of the Albanian nationality in the republic.

As part of his visit to the republic, Minister Ilir Bochka was received this evening by Macedonian Prime Minister Dr. Nikola Kljusev. Prime Minister Kljusev stressed the Republic of Macedonia's interest in cooperation with the Republic of Albania on a long-term basis that was widely discussed with the Albanian Government in July 1991. The agreed projects of mutual interest in the economic sphere and transport and telecommunications, Prime Minister Kljusev stressed, will contribute to the stability and the affirmation of European standards in relations between two sovereign and independent states.

In the afternoon, Minister Ilir Bocka had talks with the NOVA MAKEDONIJA newspaper enterprise and then visited the editorial offices of the FLAKA I VELLAZERMIT newspaper.